

THE TIMES

MONDAY APRIL 30 1984

SUNDAY 1 MAY - SUE 18 MAY 1984 20p

No 61,818

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Stone age
Roger Scruton mourns that "greatest of peacetime catastrophes", the rise of modern architecture.

Blurred lines
Fashion Page on the new styles in cross-dressing



Tripped up
The acid reign, Part 11: the fall of the LSD empire

Batmen
John Woodcock reports from Taunton on the outcome of the match between cricket's two controversial beneficiaries, Botham and Boycott

Sudan in state of emergency

A state of emergency was proclaimed throughout Sudan by President Gaafar Nimeiry. Omdurman radio said all demonstrations were banned and certain articles of the constitution suspended.

British found dead, page 5

Party confusion at the polls

Some parties do not know how many candidates they are fielding in Thursday's local council elections, our Local Government Correspondent reports in the first of three scene-setting articles. Page 4

Disney battle

A takeover battle for Walt Disney Productions appears more likely after the news that a leading financier has taken a big stake in the US film and leisure group. Page 15

Air fare action

Pictorials Travel is planning to challenge the "buckler shops" in the cut-price airline ticket market with its own shops and counters. Page 3

Seat belts save

Hospitals are treating 20 per cent fewer car crash casualties than before the wearing of seatbelts became compulsory, a survey has found. Page 3

Irish initiative

The Irish Republic is to launch a diplomatic offensive to promote a report on the New Ireland Forum which is expected to be published this week. Page 2

School disruption

Schoolchildren start their summer term today, with the prospect of their teachers taking industrial action over pay. A one-day strike is planned for May 9. Page 2

Italian quake

Rome (Reuter) - An earth tremor damaged buildings in central Italy early yesterday but there were no reports of serious casualties. Assisi in Umbria province was worst hit. Page 4

Deaths inquiry

The Premier of South Australia called for an inquiry into allegations that four Aborigines died as a result of secret British nuclear test. Page 4

Budd's real test

Zola Budd will run against the world class Norwegians, Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, in a 10-kilometre road race in Oslo next Sunday. Page 19

Clark's Open

Howard Clark, the Yorkshire golfer, won the Madrid Open yesterday with a final round score of 71. It was his first victory for six years. Page 19

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Letters: On VAT on building from Sir T. Conran, and Mr D. Marker; the book trade, from Mr R. G. M. Clow and Mr W. T. C. Anderson. Leading articles: Libya; local elections, Afghanistan. Features, pages 10-12. Mrs Thatcher's engine room: why public schools should publish detailed exam results; age of the liar. Spectrum: the King of LSD. Monday Page: rewrite print-outs. Obituary, page 14. Mr Robert Belo

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Foreign Office makes quick start on review of diplomatic relations code

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Office lawyers have started their review of the 1961 Vienna Convention, which could lead to changes in the rules of behaviour codifying diplomatic relations between states.

Several embassies in London have approached Whitehall asking for an early indicator of Government views, and some, including the West Germans, are known to have proposals of their own. The need for haste is the opening in Geneva next month of the annual meeting of the United Nations International Law Commission, where any representations to alter the convention would first have to be made. The commission, during its meeting of three to four months, will need time to consider the proposals and to agree on its own, which would then have to go before the UN General assembly's committee in September. Failure to complete that part of the process within the next few months could mean a year's delay in what promises to be a long legal wrangle anyway.

The probable procedure is for the sixth committee to refer back to the law commission any proposals which it does not like,

and when it is satisfied with the results to call a diplomatic conference to consider the proposed changes.

A complicating factor is that although Britain would like to deter countries from cynically abusing the immunity of diplomatic bags by smuggling arms and ammunition inside them, the Foreign Office is fearful of weakening the Vienna Convention to its own disadvantage. Its officials are well aware of the Pandora's Box which could be opened if diplomatic immunity in general terms was weakened.

Sources in Whitehall emphasize that what is now under way is a review of the "adequacy, operation and enforceability" of the convention's 51 articles, which does not necessarily mean that in the end Britain would propose any changes at all.

Meanwhile, a thorough police search of what is henceforth to be known simply as No 5 St James's Square might take some time, Vienna Convention or not.

The convention's article 45, much thumbed during the past 10 days by journalists, obliges Britain to "respect and protect" the premises of a foreign

mission after a breakdown in diplomatic relations.

It is that loosely-drafted phrase which gives the Metropolitan Police the right, according to Whitehall lawyers, to enter the building to ensure that the place is not being used as a kind of West End arsenal.

But the listed Georgian building also remains the private property of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which paid £2.5m for a 125-year lease in the late 1970s.

The upkeep of its elegant eighteenth-century interior, expensively refurbished eight years ago, will be the responsibility of the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Belgrave Square, whose government has become the protecting power for Libyan interests in this country.

A Saudi representative is expected to accompany police today as they wander warily over the 20,000 sq ft of floor space, including a penthouse flat and garage with room for 11 Rolls-Royces.

Colonel Gaddafi's own police will almost certainly march into the empty British embassy around the same time, as part of his policy of tit-for-tat.

Searching for coal peace

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The captain of Chestfield golf club, Mr Ned Smith, was out on the course in the morning sunshine yesterday, but he would have preferred to spend the time in a smoke-filled room with Mr Arthur Scargill.

For this particular man of Kent is the industrial relations director-general of the National Coal Board, and his latest attempt to bring the two sides together looks dangerously close to failure.

As the coal strike enters its eighth week, Mr Smith, aged 59, finds himself thrust into the limelight more than any previous holder of one of the most sensitive posts in British industry.

Traditionally, the industrial relations professionals work behind the scenes and the public talking is done by board members. But when the miners last week offered talks "anytime, anywhere", though only on their own terms, it was Mr Smith who fronted for the board. He took up the challenge and offered a round-table consultative meeting, which the union has not yet taken up.

A big man with a mane of grey hair, he is a sharp dresser with an expansive style, and would be more easily mistaken for a theatrical impresario than for his true role as a nuts-and-bolts operator at the heart of labour relations.

But he is a miner's son, raised in the militant Kent coalfield. He went to school at the "black hut" in the pit yard at Chislet (a long-defunct colliery) along with one Jack Collins, now the communist secretary of the Kent miners.

His father, a Northumbrian pitman, was blacklisted in his own coalfield and, like

Labour's candidate for Canterbury, although he did not contest the seat.

Instead, he went into junior management as a "high-flyer", administrative trainee, a post normally reserved for graduate entrants, and never really looked back. He had stints in Hobart House (the coal board's headquarters), Northumberland, Kent and South Yorkshire, where he was responsible for industrial relations at Ciltonwood, the pit whose closures triggered the present dispute, before returning to headquarters in the Robens era to head the personnel function for the newly-created Coal products division. In 1976, he became deputy director-general for industrial relations, and succeeded to the number one position when Mr Reg Thompson resigned suddenly in February last year.

When he is not sorting out the recurrent labour crises in the pits, Ned Smith plays golf or acts as "labour to my wife" in the garden. But mostly he is at his desk on the first floor of a gaunt redbrick building opposite the back of Buckingham Palace.

He rates his personal relationships with union leaders as good. "We have a good understanding", he says. "I am a great believer in being open-handed, and I expect them to be the same with me."

The present dispute is different in character to the big strikes of 1972 and 1974, he argues. "Those were expressions of disagreement by the union with government policy on their wages. It was not a direct conflict between the employer and the employee. This time it is directly between the board and the union."

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Seatbelt law cuts number of hospital casualties by a fifth, survey shows

By Thomson Prentice,
Science Correspondent

Hospitals are now treating 20 per cent fewer car crash casualties and the number of accident victims requiring in-patient treatment has fallen by more than 35 per cent since the wearing of seat belts became compulsory, according to the preliminary findings of a medical survey.

The study is still continuing, but already supports Department of Transport figures showing 475 fewer deaths and 7,000 fewer injuries between February of last year, when the law took effect, and December, compared with the same period of 1982.

The study also shows marked decreases in the numbers of brain injuries, serious chest and kidney injuries, arm fractures and superficial injuries to the face and limbs for crash victims in the front seats of cars.

The findings are based on data for the six months of February to July, 1982, compared with the same six months of last year. Fifteen hospitals and more than 6,600 casualties are considered in the preliminary report.

NHS 'paying up to avoid court costs'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The legal aid system is distorting claims for medical negligence against doctors and health authorities, producing a considerable drain on health service funds, an article in the *New Law Journal* says.

Even when plaintiffs lose their case, costs are so rarely awarded against them if they have legal aid that it is often cheaper for the health service to settle out of court than to have to meet the legal costs, according to the article by Professor Arthur Harland and Dr R. S. Jandoo of Glasgow University's department of forensic medicine.

In one case, a woman, fractured her collar bone and the break failed to heal properly. Specialists agreed the treatment had been proper and correct.

However, the woman was legally aided, the costs of the trial would have been £5,000, and the patient was prepared to settle for £500, so the patient was "offered an ex-gratia payment, which was accepted". Even though patients are "ex-gratia", the patient still feels he has won, the doctors that they have lost, and "as a result the doctor-patient relationship is irreparably damaged", the article says.

Calling for reform of the law, the authors suggest there should either be a no-fault compensation scheme, as in New Zealand; legal costs should be more easily recoverable from those receiving legal aid; or the plaintiff's lawyer should be allowed to charge "contingency fees" — no payment and hence no legal costs, unless the case is won.

House raiders batter man to death

By Richard Ford

Raiders battered to death an elderly man yesterday as he attempted to free his three brothers and sister who had been tied to their beds at their home near Middletown in Cork.

The two men ransacked the house and stole £180 leaving Mr Michael Walshe, aged 69, lying dead. Detectives in the Irish Republic launched a murder inquiry for the men described as "particularly vicious" who beat the man around the head with a large stick.

They broke into the house and bound Thomas, Patrick, Dennis and Elizabeth Walshe to their beds with their hands tied above their heads. Hours later their brother Michael was attacked after going upstairs to attempt to rescue them.

Landmark inquiry starts on £30m plan

By Our Architecture Correspondent

One of Britain's biggest postwar planning battles opens at Guildhall, London, into plans to build a 230m, 21-storey glass and bronze office block at Mansion House, close to the Bank of England.

The design for the 290-ft tower and piazza above an underground shopping complex is by American architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who died in 1969. It was commissioned by Mr Peter Palumbo, who has spent 26 years and £10m acquiring 12 freeholds and 345 leaseholds on the six-acre site for the Investment Trust Ltd.

The development, including 178,000sq ft of offices, would be worth more than £100m on completion and letting.

Mr Palumbo first sought planning permission for it in 1968. The City of London's Court of Common Council and the Greater London Council approved the scheme in principle but withheld full

FRONT-SEAT CASUALTIES		
Feb-July 1982	Feb-July 1983	
(%)	(%)	
Died in hospital	0.57	0.43
Surviving admissions	18.01	14.25
Surviving outpatients	84.02	66.03

Comparison of injuries		
%	%	
Facial wounds	15.19	6.72 (-54%)
Concussion	12.18	9.11 (-23%)
Fractured skull	0.82	0.54 (-32%)
Intrn chst inj's	1.33	0.47 (-71%)
Sprained necks	13.54	20.09 (+51%)

The organizer of the study, Mr William Rutherford, consultant in accident and emergency medicines at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, said: "The undoubtedly success of seatbelt legislation should not obscure the fact that death and injury on the roads are still unacceptably high".

Tomorrow, Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, will introduce a private member's Bill calling for

the mandatory fitting of rear seatbelts in new cars.

Rear seatbelts would save an additional 300 lives a year, including about 100 front seat passengers who are killed by the impact of unrestrained rear passengers during road accidents, Mr Mitchell believes.

"There is still enormous scope for improvement in car passenger safety and it is high time that rear belts were more widely available", he said.

"They would protect those 22,000 or more passengers who are injured in the rear seats of cars every year." At present, he said, only 5 to 10 per cent of new cars had rear belts fitted.

The hospital survey shows that not all injuries have fallen since legislation was introduced last year. Fractures and dislocations of the spine, though generally uncommon, have become somewhat more common since the law came into effect, and sprains of the neck, which were already common, have also increased.

The preliminary findings of the study have been presented to the annual conference of the Casualties Surgeons' Association.



Rebecca Thomas, aged five, from Warminster, Wiltshire, in the workout at the QPR stadium yesterday

Aerobics to boost Olympics fund

Seven hundred and seventy-four people took part in an aerobic exercise led by the Guinness workout team at the Queens Park Rangers ground in London yesterday.

The participants were aiming for a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* as well as raising funds for the British Olympic Appeal, which stand at £1.2m. The

Guinness brewery company has agreed to match the cash raised through individual sponsorships and donations.

Photograph: Chris Harris

so, however, closure would be a possibility.

Mr Stefan Ormrod, chief wildlife officer of the RSPCA, welcomed the act. "Ninety per cent of zoos need some improvement."

RSPCA inspectors had seen a hyena in a cage with four months of droppings, a bear with only a milk crate for entertainment and gregarious monkeys which had their tails chewed off because they had "gone psychotic" through being kept isolated.

Some zoos would have to spend a lot and half a dozen might close in the first year.

"If the Act is a success, a large number of animals are likely to be put down. Other zoos will not be able or want to take them. If you have a well-established group of baboons, you are not going to risk mess things up by taking a mental animal into the group."

"But it is better to get it right now with good standards than have the continued steady consumption of animals into the system for the next 50 to 100 years, which is what has happened in the past".

Mr Ormrod said that his main worry was that the Act did not appear to force local authorities to impose the recommendation of inspectors.

If zoos did not raise their standards when required to do

Aircraft crash-lands next to A30

The pilot of a light aircraft crashed close to the busy A30 yesterday.

The Cessna two-seat aircraft piloted by Mr Grant Randall, aged 26, got into difficulties during a test flight near Exeter airport, and was forced to land in a field. It stopped five feet from the road.

Mr Randall, and his wife, who was a passenger, escaped with bruises.

Mother and sons killed in fire

A man who was trapped on a window ledge outside his blazing home in Glasgow yesterday, shouted to firemen to save his wife and family first, but they were found dead when firemen reached them.

Mrs Jane Lee, aged 26, and three sons, aged four and three, were trapped in their top floor flat in Kilmuir Crescent, Arden. Mr Hugh Lee, aged 25, who was rescued by ladder, was treated for burns and the effects of smoke.

By John Young,
Agriculture Correspondent

The British Field Sports Society and the Salmon and Trout Association are launching a campaign today for new legislation to protect and conserve salmon stocks.

Members of both organizations are being urged to write to their MPs seeking support for a tagging scheme, such as is employed in Canada.

There is a fishing licence is accompanied by tags, one of which must be attached to every fish caught. There are severe penalties, including imprisonment, for anyone caught with untagged fish.

The aim is that such a scheme in Britain should cover anglers and licensed commercial net men.

A society official said yesterday that although the scheme would not prevent poaching altogether, it would be an important deterrent, since even the most unscrupulous merchant would think twice about buying untagged fish.

Poaching, mainly by illegal drift netting, has been held largely responsible for this year's poor spring runs.

include the Royal Fine Art Commission, Save Britain's Heritage — which has commissioned an alternative design by the post-modern architect of TV-am, Terry Farrell — and the Victorian Society.

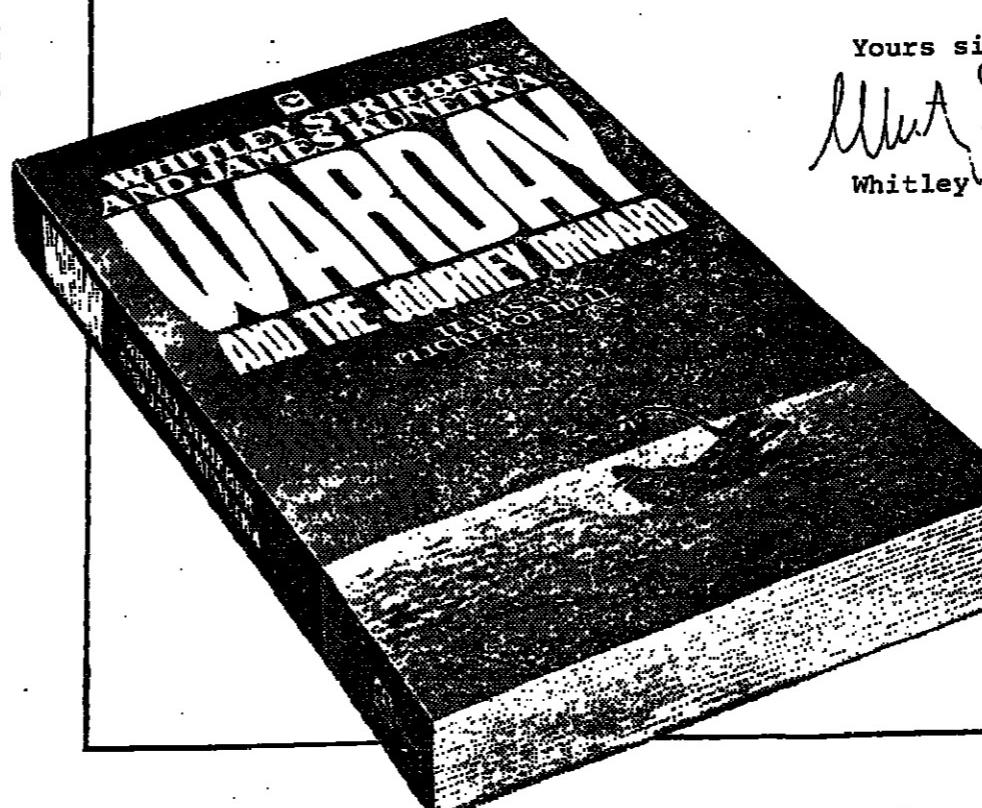
• Tonight Thames Television will be presenting its awards for modern architecture in London. Nearly 5,000 viewers of the nightly news programme *Thames News* voted for what they considered the best and worst examples of postwar buildings in the capital. Architecture at the barricades, page 9

On Warday seven million Americans die. There are not even enough bombs to touch off a nuclear winter. But, five years later, we find British relief officials fighting to help the Americans rebuild a disintegrated country, and seven million more Americans dead of starvation and disease.

We Americans and Soviets are locked in a black embrace. You can choose: help yourselves and thus help us break the deadlock, or join us on some dreary future day, in the ashes and bones.

That's why this morning, April 30th we are personally delivering a copy of Warday to both the American and Soviet Embassies.

That's why we think it important you read it too.



Yours sincerely

Whitley Strieber James Kunetka

Whitley Strieber James Kunetka

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Pickfords challenges bucket shops on cheap air fares

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Pickfords Travel is to challenge the cut-price air ticket "bucket shops" with its own two-pronged discount strategy.

It is launching a chain of Travel Mart shops selling cheap tickets, and will offer a similar service from special Prizesaver counters in up to a third of its high street agencies.

Pickfords is the first big chain to take on the bucket shops openly. Most travel agencies have concentrated on finding the best ticket deals for business travellers, but the Pickfords strategy should bring cheaper tickets within reach of holiday makers who may have been loath to use bucket shops.

About 10 per cent of all airline tickets are sold at discount prices, in spite of an internationally agreed fare structure.

But Mr Thompson said the Travel Mart scheme would aim to avoid the "murky" areas of the ticket business. "It is perfectly possible to run a business with fringe areas."

Pickfords have so far opened Travel Mart branches in Shepherds Bush and City Road, London; in Richmond, Surrey; Stockport, Greater Manchester, and Birmingham.

The prizesavers counters are being piloted in Bristol, Edinburgh and Newcastle upon Tyne, and others are due to open soon in Brighton, Canterbury, Oxford, Cambridge and Norwich.

A possible next step for Travel Mart would be to offer discounted package holidays which tour operators have been unable to sell. Such packages would probably be reformulated and sold in "own label" fashion as Travel Mart holidays.

Shop union calls for help to fight Sunday trading

The president of the shop workers' union appealed yesterday for help from other trade unions to fight unrestricted Sunday trading.

Mr Syd Tierney told the annual conference of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers in Eastbourne: "We are in the middle of a political battle of the highest importance to our union as we fight unrestricted Sunday shopping and the prospect of the 'open all hours' Act for the retail trades."

"Wages councils, which ensure premium payments for Sunday, are under threat by a government which is pro-business and anti-worker."

support our fight against Sunday trading and the fight to retain premium payments for all Sunday work. The movement must respond to our lead."

He said that Sunday trading would increase costs which would be passed on to consumers. "Traders will blame premium payments for Sunday work as being responsible for those costs."

"Wages councils, which ensure premium payments for Sunday, are under threat by a government which is pro-business and anti-worker."

Poll fight for second place at 'Sign-On Valley'

From Tim Jones
Aberdare

The real battle in Thursday's Cynon Valley by-election is for second place. Only a disaster of shuddering proportions will prevent Mrs Ans Clwyd, the Labour candidate, from becoming the first woman to represent a South Wales valley seat.

Mrs Clwyd, a member of the European Parliament and the party's national executive, believes she can increase the 13,074 general election majority, but when the result is so predictable that seems to be optimistic.

Apart from a lethargy engendered by the heatwave, Mrs Clwyd is also fighting a male chauvinistic factor, for Cynon is a traditional mining area, where in better economic times women stayed at home.

Unemployment is so high that the area is known locally as 'Sign-On Valley'.

Mrs Clwyd, who totally supports the miners has been ambiguous in backing Mr Kinnock and his call for a national ballot on pit closures.

Mrs Clwyd said: "I have no objection to ballots, but the issue is not about ballots, it is about jobs."

Plaid Cymru, which knows it must capture an industrial seat to become a serious political force, has also pledged total commitment to the miners. Its candidate, Mr Clayton Jones, a local coach proprietor, has taken more than 1,000 pickets to the Nottinghamshire coalfield, and has spoken at miners' rallies.

His uncompromising message that the miners must win was instrumental in securing second place for Plaid in a county council by-election in the constituency last week. Plaid polled 30 per cent, compared with 9 per cent at the general election.

Mr Jones is fighting for second place against Mr Felix Aebel, the SDP/Alliance candidate, who was second at the general election.

There seems little prospect of the Conservative candidate, Mr James Arlthorpe, having to fulfil his pledge of living in the constituency if elected. A former head boy at Eton, and a member of Kensington and Chelsea borough council, Mr Arlthorpe will probably become an MP - but not for the Cynon Valley.

He went to see Mr Emlyn Williams, president of the South Wales miners, to ask why the union was not holding a ballot. Mr Williams must have admired his courage if not his politics.

The by-election was caused by the death of Mr Ioan Evans.

Candidate: Joan Evans (Lab) 20,000; Mr Felix Aebel (SDP/Alliance) 16,240; Pauline Jarman (Plaid Cymru) 3,421. Mat 13,074.

£52,000 paid for South Downs wildlife site

Ninety-three acres of Malling Down, near Lewes in East Sussex, which contain turf said to be 4,000 years old, has been bought by the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation for £52,000.

Half the site was part of the Ringmer Park Estate and the rest belonged to the Glyndebourne Estate. The areas is described as one of the most important wildlife sites on the South Down.

It contains a wide range of chalk grassland flowers and many species of insect which depend on them. Three endangered species of blue butterflies are found within Malling Down.

Local council elections, 1

The numbers game is confusing

The lady at the Cardiff headquarters of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, was keen to help. But she had little to impart. "We have not done a breakdown, and I am afraid we have no list of our candidates", she explained. "Yes, we are defending seats. But I am afraid I would not be able to tell you how many."

The Social Democrats, although more ambitious, were not much more knowledgeable. They hope to capture seats all over the country and double the size of their present collection of 200 councillors.

An official of the SDP at Westminster said that the Press Association's independent estimate that her party was fielding 1,091 candidates was probably almost correct. But the total was probably rather higher, say about 1,200. The party's headquarters did not know what it was.

The Communists, at least, would surely know precisely what their members were doing in the regions. The organization department at the party's headquarters in London knew exactly how many seats the party would defend in Thursday's election. The figure was one, at Motherwell, Strathclyde.

But even the Communists did not know their precise number of candidates. The organization department was sure that the total was about 85. But it might be a bit higher and it might be rather lower. If the parties do not know what is happening, who can blame the voters for being confused?

This year's local council elections will inevitably be a poor relation of the three parliamentary by-elections on the same day and of the national elections for the European Parliament the following month.

The local elections, however, cover a wide stretch of the country, literally from Land's End to John O'Groats, or rather numbered by the populations of

Leading article, page 13

each of the 32 London boroughs. The political cut and thrust found in authorities all over the capital is missing from South Herefordshire.

There are, of course, politicians on the district council.

The Liberal/SDP Alliance has two members and the Conservatives four. But seven councillors call themselves independents while the other 22 do not call themselves anything.

If pressed, they will describe themselves as non-party, but prefer to be known simply by their occupations.

Even in some councils with heavy political representations, there is little scope for change. There are still councils where politicians from at least one of the main parties have no chance of getting beyond the public gallery.

In Torbay District Council, which covers much of the most fashionable section of the Devon coast, the opposition numbers one independent and one representative of a ratepayers' and amenities association. The other 34 councillors are Conservatives.

It can work the other way round. Opposition on Afan District Council in West Glamorgan is concentrated in seven councillors who represent ratepayers. The other 24 belong to the Labour Party.

Changes in political control are made even less likely by the fact that Thursday's elections in England and Wales are limited in scope. They are happening only in the middle tier of councils, and only for a third of the seats on councils for which elections are being held.

Tomorrow: Results to watch for.

Contrast in styles for leadership election

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Voting starts today in the election to decide who will lead the Transport and General Workers' Union for at least the next decade. All the signs point to a close race between the two front runners.

The election in the country's largest union has attracted much more interest than usual. The successor to Frank Cousins, Jack Jones and Moss Evans is likely to be elected on a higher turnout than the normal 40 per cent.

The outcome is expected to turn on voting in two of the union's 11 regions London and the South-east, with 390,000 members, the largest region, the Midlands, with 250,000.

Left-wingers backing Mr Ron Todd, aged 56, the union's national organizer, are pulling out the stops to deliver the vote in the South-east, which is regarded as his power base, while backers of Mr George Wright, the TGWU Welsh regional secretary, are mobilizing support in the Midlands car factories, where he started his union career.

While both men deny that the election is a contest between left and right, the right wing of the union is supporting Mr Wright while Mr Todd has the backing of the broad left grouping in the union. In addition to the political battle, a key factor will be the men's differing ideas on styles of leadership.

Mr Wright wants to take the union back to a Jack Jones tradition with the general

Miss Emma Johnson

Schoolgirl wins music title

Emma Johnson, aged 17, a clarinetist from Pett's Wood, Kent, was named BBC Television's Young Musician of the Year last night.

She was presented with a trophy and a £200 cheque by the Duchess of Kent at the end of the concerto final in the Manchester Free Trade Hall.

Miss Johnson, a schoolgirl, clinched the title with a performance of Crusell's Clarinet Concerto in F Minor.

Forty-two young musicians took part in the competition.

Mr Wright does win it will be a break with the recent tradition that the union's general secretary has a motor industry background.

If Mr Todd wins, he will be the first Londoner to lead the union for decades.

Reactor fire

An inquiry started yesterday after a fire in the main reactor building at the Berkeley nuclear power station in Gloucestershire, but a spokesman said there was no risk of a radiation leak.

The survey is being financed by a £50,000 grant from the new Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, which has since been matched by a similar grant from Brighton council.

The pier has been owned by the Crown Estates Commissioners since its former owners, went into liquidation in 1977. It is expected to be sold to the trust for a nominal £100.

Architects stage festival to mark 150 years

By Charles Knecht, Architecture Correspondent

An eight-month celebration of the art of architecture will be launched today by the Royal Institute of British Architects to mark its 150th anniversary this year.

Hundreds of events in the first national festival of architecture, will be staged throughout Britain in an attempt to involve as many members of the public as possible.

The institute's 80 branches and 22,000 members have planned an ambitious programme of exhibitions, lectures, concerts, competitions, films, opening of buildings normally closed to the public, and the flood lighting of important works of architecture. It ends with a float in the Lord Mayor's Show and a party at the institute's headquarters in Portland Place, Central London, which was built as a result of a hundredth anniversary design competition won by G Grey Worman.

The most spectacular event will be a £40,000 royal gala evening at Hampton Court Palace on May 30, when the Prince of Wales will award the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture for 1984 to an Indian architect, Mr Charles Correa.

The award is being given for his contribution to Third World

A special Report on Architecture will be published with The Times on May 18. Further details may be obtained from the festival office at: 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD. Telephone: 01-580 5533.

A masque called *Britannia Preserved*, commissioned from A N Wilson, the author, and Stephen Oliver, the composer and musical director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, will be performed for the first

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\$10m shares campaign planned for Telecom

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

About £10m may be spent by the Government on an advertising campaign to encourage telephone subscribers to purchase shares in British Telecom.

Telecom management will play virtually no part in the promotion over the summer and autumn because they consider it the Government's duty to dispose of its shareholdings.

The Government advertising campaign, on radio, television and in newspapers, is distinct from those British Telecom will run. It is indicative of the corporations' desire to keep away from the minutiae of the flotation. Also it is the Government which wants extensive public ownership. Most Telecom management fear that will present logistical problems in keeping shareholders informed. There are more than 20 million telephone subscribers.

The Government aims to sell 51 per cent of British Telecom in the late autumn.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority will advise on the campaign that is permissible because of the constraints imposed on television advertising for promoting political views.

The privatization of British Telecom is contentious, even within the Cabinet. Advertising is expected to be restricted to information only.

The Government remains anxious to make a ministerial statement this week on the sale, but several issues remain unresolved with British Telecom.

The Government's proposal to limit future tariff increases to 3 per cent below the retail price index is not popular with Telecom management and those City analysts who fear it will endanger a successful sale.

The corporation favours a constraint that would allow it to bring domestic telephone rates into line with those charged to business.

The cost of any government advertising will be met from the sale proceeds. To encourage wide share ownership a voucher allowing a rental rebate is to be offered to shareholders. That will also be paid for from the sale.

His call comes after a former RAF technician, dying of cancer in Adelaide, said that he found the bodies of four Aborigines in a bomb crater after one of the tests in the outback of South Australia. The allegations were contained in a report in Saturday's *Adelaide Advertiser* newspaper.

Mr Bannon also said that he would be writing to Neil Kinnock, the British Opposition leader, asking him to press for the release of records on testing at Maralinga.

He decided to do so because the response he had received from Sir John Mason, the British High Commissioner in Canberra, had been inadequate.

Mr Burke's claims come close on the heels of another report concerning British atomic tests at Maralinga in 1963, until now. Earlier British tests are better documented because they took place more than 30 years ago, and documents concerning the mining of Nicaraguan ports by rebels directly supervised by the CIA.

The official and pro-Government press reacted with predictable rancour, publishing archive photographs of the Archbishop embracing the late dictator Anastasio Somoza, interviews with the bereaved mothers of young soldiers who have died in recent fighting, daily editorials and cruel cartoons, one even depicting Mgr Obando y Bravo as the devil. Cinemas in Managua put on *Monsignor*, a film about a corrupt priest which always seems to come round when the Government is at loggerheads with the clergy.

Relations between state and church have long been strained as a result of what the bishops see as the Government's desire to alienate them from the Roman Catholic majority through the creation of an alternative, populist church led by revolutionary priests, some of whom hold powerful Government positions.

Through his frequent hostile homilies, Archbishop Obando y Bravo has assumed the status of a leading spokesman against the Government, which censors traditional opposition mouthpieces, ostensibly as a result of the security situation.

Mr Burke claims that he has received several anonymous telephone calls telling him to keep quiet, but had decided to speak out because he was dying of stomach cancer. He claims his cancer is a direct result of his exposure to radiation in 1963.

Mr Burke said that after one of the 1963 explosions he spent three days in hospital with burns, his legs "glowing in the dark". He was about a mile and a half from the detonation site at Maralinga.

The Aborigines in the Maralinga area were moved to Yalata, in the far north-west of South Australia, announced that they planned to seek compensation from both the British and Australian governments for damages and the alleged ill-effect of radiation caused by the atomic tests at Maralinga.

The Aborigines which sparked this latest row over Britain's atomic tests in Australia were made by Mr John Burke, aged 63. He said in the interview with the *Adelaide Advertiser* that the 1963 tests - three of them altogether - were carried out in secret. He found, he said, a number of animals

dead

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dead

Manager
accuses
church
collusion

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 30 1984

OVERSEAS NEWS

5

Gandhi's party sweeps to power comfortably in Christian Mizoram

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Indian newspapers commented yesterday that only "relatively minor incidents" marked last week's elections in Mizoram. One candidate was killed necessitating the postponement of voting in his constituency, and on polling day a police reservist was shot dead by people determined to boycott the polls.

By Indian electoral standards these could be counted as minor, but the most surprising aspect of the election was the result. Mrs Indira Gandhi's Congress Party was swept into power with an overall majority. Of the 29 seats contested the Mizoram Congress Committee (1) had yesterday won 17. Only two more seats from country areas have yet to be declared.

Mizoram is one of the seven north-eastern states which were carved out of Assam in the 1960s and 1970s. It hangs at Assam's southern tip, pointing towards the Bay of Bengal, bordered by Bangladesh and Burma. It is not a fully-fledged state, but a union territory, and technically ruled from Delhi, but it has been allowed its own legislature.

It is a district of hills, and valleys, populated by Mongloid tribes people. It was annexed by the British after the tribesmen started making a nuisance of themselves in the late 1800s, joined to Assam as the Lushai Hills district, and promptly



ignored, except by Christian missionaries.

It was ignored after independence by the government of Assam, until the great famine of 1959, caused by the flowering of the bamboo. (The bamboo flowers only once every 40 or 50 years. When it does the rats gorge on bamboo seeds, and enjoy a population explosion of immense proportions. They then destroy all crops.)

The smouldering discontent of the tribes broke out into open rebellion in the mid-1960s, and was put down with great force by the Indian army, which copying the British example in the Malaya insurgency, set up group villages to confine the local inhabitants.

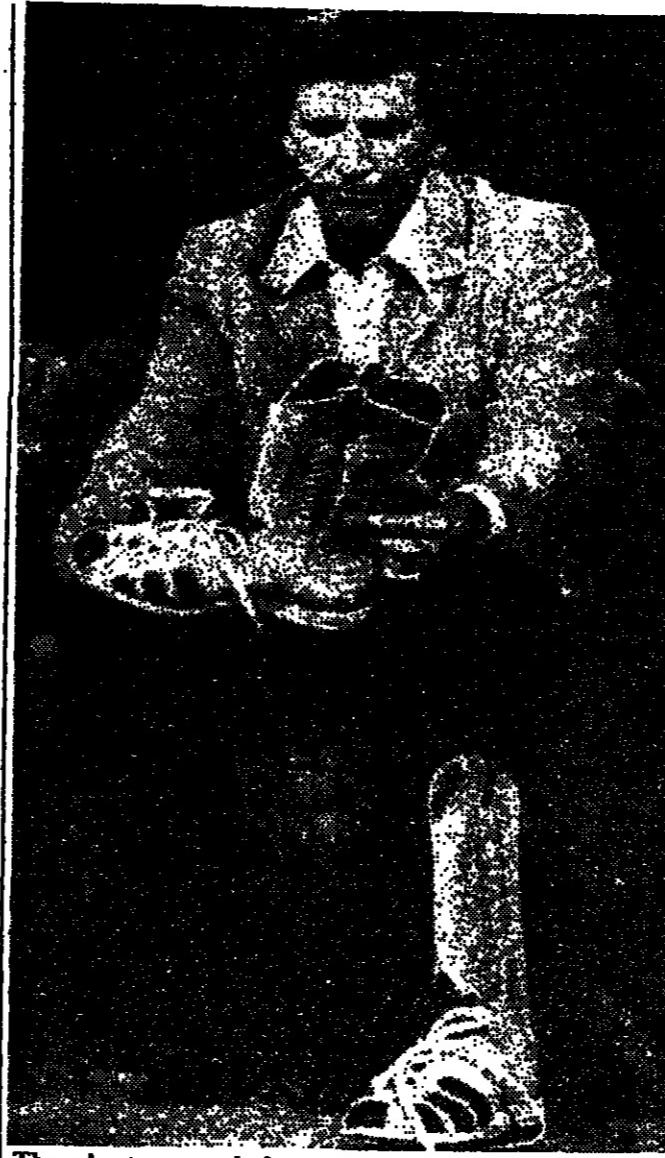
Since the district's incorporation as a union territory the insurrection has gradually died down. The Mizo National Front is still a force, and has up to 500

men under arms, mostly in Bangladesh. The MNF leader, Mr Lal Denga, resides in gentle exile in Surrey.

Retired Brigadier-General Thenphunga Saito began a civil rights association attacking the Army for its atrocities, and the irony of an army man attacking the hand that used to feed him turned him into a popular hero, his association into a political party - the People's Conference - and eventually the retired brigadier into the Chief Minister.

But the wheel of politics has now turned against Brigadier Saito. Allegations of corruption against his government have begun to stick, promises of aid, in cash and benefits from the central Government, have lured the electorate away.

Though it is obviously a good result for Mrs Gandhi, who herself took a whirlwind campaigning tour through the territory last week, one should beware of reading too much of a forecast of future electoral success into it. The total population of the territory is under half a million, not much larger than many single-member constituencies in some states, and the people are largely musical, Christian and volatile - "a guitar, a girl and a gun" was the young Mizo male's motto - and very different from the largely Hindu India to their west.



These boots are made for running: Senator Gary Hart with a pair of cowboy boots and running shoes presented to him on a television show in Nashville, Tennessee.

Swiss males reject women's lib

From Alan McGregor
Geneva

Tradition has defiantly reasserted itself at the annual open air parliament of the Swiss half canton of Appenzell Outer Rhodes, held in the square at the hill top town of Trogen yesterday.

Male voters sporting ceremonial swords - "only those who carry arms have the right to vote" - decided by a show of hands on mundane matters such as new by-laws and the budget. They were also asked to give their verdict on a Social Democratic Party proposal for a referendum in which both sexes would decide whether women would take their place with men in the assembly itself.

But counting the votes was not necessary. Hands raised in favour of a referendum were like a spinney compared to the forest of those against.

This was the fifth time in the 14 years since Swiss women gained the right to vote in federal affairs that Appenzell Outer Rhodes has asserted opposition to changing an institution it regards as "the purest form of direct democracy".

"At the assembly", said one man, "there's this tremendous gut feeling of community." Some of the women, lining the square as spectators, admitted in being torn between contemporary ideas of equality and deep attachment to tradition.

Briton is found dead in Sudan

From Gill Lusk
Khartoum

The British employee of an American surveying firm has been killed by armed attackers in southern Sudan. Mr Evan Jones, aged 39, was driving from Bor, provincial capital of strife-torn Jonglei province, to a camp 56 miles to the north when his Land-Rover was held up at gunpoint around midday on Thursday.

After extensive searches by police, his body was discovered on Saturday in thick bush near the site of the hold-up, 12 miles north of Bor. Police were yesterday holding a Sudanese worker who was accompanying him.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which is very active in the region, is understood to have denied involvement. There are indications that former colleagues with a grudge may have been involved.

The killing took place only two days after Mr Jones's company, Geosource, had started a seismic survey for the French oil company, Total.

Another French company, Chevron, stopped all operations in southern Sudan in February after the killing, probably by rebels, of three foreign workers. This has already delayed Sudan's petroleum export hopes by 13 months.

However, Total returned to work last week against the advice of other overseas companies

Peron invited home for talks with Alfonsin

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - The opposition Peronist Party has invited its leader, Señor Maira Estela Martinez de Perón, to return to Argentina from Spain for political talks with the government led by President Raúl Alfonsin.

The Government said Señor Alfonsin's talks with opposition parties would begin on May 7. It said he would first meet leaders of the Peronist Party, the main opposition.

The talks are aimed at reaching an agreement with all the nation's representative forces on a global strategy for national recovery, a government source said.

Citroen workers accept terms for repatriation

From Our Correspondent
Paris

The first group of immigrant workers from the main Citroen car plant outside Paris has agreed to return home in exchange for cash payments from the company and the Government of between £5,200 and £8,500 each.

Most of the 409 are Moroccans.

The French car industry has since suffered recession and there is less need of strong arms on assembly lines that are moving over to robots. The car companies want thousands of the immigrants to return.

Citroen, which wants to lay off 1,700 of the 4,000 immigrants it employs near Paris, recently suggested a figure of £5,200, half from various government grants and the rest from the company. It had almost no takers and the final sum for the 409 men will probably be a few thousand pounds more.

Renault is being more generous - a total package of £3,600, plus a cheap car or a tractor in some cases.

Woman law chief: Carol Dinkins, aged 38, is to be America's first woman deputy Attorney-General. She will run the Justice Departments' day-to-day affairs.

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Israeli censor suspends paper for reports on death of bus hijackers

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The struggle between sections of the Israeli press and the country's strict military censorship rules intensified yesterday, when the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the new tabloid daily *Hadashot* (news), against an order by the chief censor requiring its closure for four days.

The closing of the paper was one of the severest moves ordered against a Jewish newspaper here for more than 15 years and reflected the Government's anger over continuing disclosures concerning the deaths of two of the four Palestinians who hijacked a bus on April 13. There has been growing speculation that they may have been captured alive and later killed by Israeli security men or soldiers.

The chief censor's harsh measures were ordered last week after the Tel Aviv-based paper (which is owned by the publishers of *Ha'aretz*, Israel's most respected daily, defied censorship and disclosed that Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, had set up a committee of inquiry chaired by a retired general to determine the fate of the two hijackers, one of whom was photographed leaving the bus alive.

How the military vets journalists

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Military censorship in Israel is imposed both on the total of more than 100 foreign journalists based in the country and the local media, including the state-controlled radio and broadcasting company. In practice, it has often tended to be imposed more strictly on Israeli reporters except at such times as the country at war.

All foreign journalists sign a form on receiving government press accreditation (vital for

it). It is understood that the other papers were reluctantly persuaded by Mr Arens not to release any news about the inquiry because of the risk which could be posed to Israeli prisoners still in the hands of Palestinian splinter groups.

The most crucial piece of evidence likely to go before the committee of inquiry is, ironically, a photograph taken by a *Hadashot* photographer showing Mr Majdi Abu Jumes, aged 18, being led away, apparently alive and well, by two security men. It has never been published here because of the censor's orders, but the Government suspects the paper of having leaked its existence to the foreign media, which subsequently covered the growing scandal in great detail.

The action against it was taken under the Israeli censorship law, which is based on Draconian emergency regulations originally drafted by the British in 1945 during the mandate. Although the closure of the paper's press and the launching of a police inquiry are almost unprecedented in Israel, they are relatively moderate steps compared with what the law permits.

The appointment of the Defence Ministry investigation took place last Thursday and represented a dramatic change of heart by Mr Arens.

It had been made known to editors who sit on the com-

Lebanese cabinet still not named

Beirut (Reuters) - Lebanese armed groups fired at each other across the front lines in Beirut intermittently as attempts to form a government of national unity marked time yesterday.

The shooting broke out in mid-morning between Muslim militias in the west and the Lebanese Army and Christian forces in the east.

Grenades, machine guns and automatic rifles were used but the fighting was not as heavy as on Saturday, when two people were killed and more than 20 wounded.

The Prime Minister-designate, Mr Rashid Karami, was at home in the northern city of Tripoli. He flew there after two days of apparently inconclusive parliamentary consultations on the shape of the government President Amine Gemayel had asked him to form.

Mr Karami declined to say when he would be able to announce the list of ministers.

● Aide resigns: A top aide to President Gemayel, Mr Wadih Haddad, has resigned (AFP reports). His departure and replacement by Mr Jean Obeid, who is on good terms with the Syrians, was seen as a new sign of the demise of United States influence on Lebanese policy, following the pullout of the Marines.

Mr Haddad, aged 43, was Mr Gemayel's adviser on national security matters for nearly two years and the champion of United States policy in Lebanon. He was also a prominent right-wing Christian.

Mr Haddad was charged with all contacts with the Americans and he finally became the target of criticism from both opponents and supporters of Mr Gemayel.

● TEL AVIV: The Israeli Army said yesterday that soldiers had shot dead two guerrillas caught attempting to plant a roadside bomb near the south Lebanon village of Ansariya (Reuter reports).

ists' phones have been tapped

For the Israelis, censorship for most papers is administered by an editors' committee, working on a gentleman's agreement in which briefings are given by government ministers and requests not to publish certain items submitted. Other stories are submitted to the military censor in the normal way and infractions are dealt with in the first instance by an internal tribunal.

To back up the system, it is impossible to send a press telex through the central Post Office without a censor's stamp on every sheet, and members of the censor's department have admitted that foreign journal-



Italian triumph: Michele Alboreto of Italy on the podium yesterday after winning the Belgian Grand Prix in Zolder in a Ferrari. Race report, page 22

Experts fail to find substitute for war

From Mario Modiano, Athens

their 28-line final report approved on Saturday.

The meeting was in response to a mandate from the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and was a sequel to the abortive Montreux meeting of 1978. The results in Athens were just as negative, but the climate was said to have improved perceptibly, especially between the US and the Soviet Union.

They are holding a closing session today to formalize the fiasco and release the text of

Jurists and diplomats from 35 countries of East and West Europe, as well as from the United States and Canada, and he finally became the target of criticism from both opponents and supporters of Mr Gemayel.

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Malaysia's new King warns his Premier

From M. G. G. Pilkai
Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's new King, Sultan Iskandar of Johore, has, within hours of being sworn in, told Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, the Prime Minister, and his ministers that, "You have to learn to live with me now".

The Government has reason to fear a confrontation with the independent-minded king whose likes and dislikes, unlike those of his predecessors, are not necessarily those of the administration.

He has refused to stay in the official palace, at least for the time being; decided to give away his £15,000 federal monthly allowance to a foundation he is setting up and he has swept away 27 years of court protocol — anything that did not fit in with his view of what it ought to be.

What makes for the difficult relationship is that Sultan Iskandar knows that a reported statement of his panicked Dr Mahathir and Datuk Mussa Hitam, his deputy, into wanting to reduce the ruler's powers, and brought about last year's constitutional crisis. But he has since made his peace with the Prime Minister.

But other problems loom: The King has insisted that the two government executive jets be used only with his permission. The Government is unwilling to concede, but it is not clear if it would want a confrontation on this just yet.

His opposition to Datuk Mussa, whom he has publicly accused of *les majeurs*, dates from the constitutional crisis. The King did not want him in the receiving line when he was installed last week and Datuk Mussa was there only because the Cabinet insisted on it.

"Some people accuse me publicly and apologize in private", the King told a lunch meeting at the palace last week, in an obvious reference to Datuk Mussa, who comes from Johore. "But I want a public apology, with the press reporting it prominently."

Part of the problem derives from the belief earlier this year that Sultan Iskandar would not be elected king — the front-runner, Sultan Idris Shah of Perak, died a fortnight before the election.

The ruling party, officially,

has not welcomed his election and the relationship remains strained, although it is improving.

Nuclear blast

Kiel (Reuters) — A weekend explosion blew the metal legs from a 130ft pylon carrying electricity to the Brokdorf nuclear plant site. The uncompleted plant near Kiel has been the target of protests from nuclear power opponents.

Statue of female Christ removed

New York — A bronze statue of a crucified woman by the sculptress Edwina Sandys, granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, has been removed from the Cathedral of St John the Divine in Manhattan. In the short time it was on exhibition, it was the subject of considerable controversy, (Trevor Fishlock writes).

"It is theologically and historically indefensible," the Right Rev Walter Dennis, Episcopal Suffragan Bishop of New York, said. He was shocked by the 4ft bronze figure, entitled Christa, and thought it a desecration.

However, the Very Rev James Parks Morton, Dean of the cathedral, sides with those who say it makes the point that God acted through Christ to save all people, regardless of race and sex, and that the female figure is an allusion to the mystical body of Christ transcending sex.

Art theft

New York (AFP) — Three armed men made off with a \$100,000 (£69,000) haul of modern art from New York's Christie's Contemporary Gallery at the weekend. Stolen works included numbered prints signed by David Hockney and Henry Moore and sculptures by Deborah Stern, Malcolm Woodward and Lynn Chadwick.

Mondale boost

New York (Reuters) — Black Democratic voters prefer Mr Walter Mondale to the Rev Jesse Jackson as the party's presidential nominee, according to a weekend Gallup poll for Newsweek.

Flights resume

Cairo (AFP) — Egypt and Libya have agreed to resume flights between the two countries after a five-year break. *Al Ahram* reported yesterday. Weekly flights will start soon between Cairo and Tripoli and Cairo and Benghazi.

Death sentences

Ankara (Reuters) — Seven people have been sentenced to death in a trial of 72 alleged left-wing militants accused of 10 political murders and other armed offences in southern Turkey before the 1980 military coup.

Hirohito is 83

Tokyo (Reuters) — Emperor Hirohito yesterday celebrated his eighty-third birthday. He told cheering well-wishers from the veranda of the Imperial Palace that he was pleased to see them and wished them happiness.

Watford family killed in Normandy car crash

Police survey the wreckage of a car in which a British family of four died near Le Havre in Normandy.

Seven people were killed in

the

crash

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Harfleur

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Seine

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a car

collided

with

the

Hadley's

Ford Cortina.

Both cars burst into flames killing all the occupants, including two policemen from Paris riding with the driver of the other car, a docker from Le Havre.

Soviet scoop on space beings

From Richard Owen Moscow

As Russians began preparations in earnest over the weekend for tomorrow's May Day celebrations a Soviet astronomer revealed that world peace and the "bright future" promised by Soviet communism may be brought about not by earthly efforts but by beings from outer space, who are already trying to get in touch with us by intergalactic telephone.

The news that we are not alone was broken in the newspaper *Moscow News* by Dr Boris Fesenko, who believes that the gently pulsing and glowing nebula, known as NGC 6543, is not merely a white hot core but also a signal from extra-terrestrial beings. Since the nebula is all of 1,000 light years from here it will take time for the signals to reach us, but Dr Fesenko is firmly convinced that we will receive them.

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NGC 6543, he wrote, had obviously been designed by intelligent beings who, looking down on our small planet, could

wrote, "but I believe it forebodes the possibility of a brilliant future for our descendants."

Just in case anyone takes the Fesenko theories too seriously, however, *Moscow News* printed two sceptical views by fellow Soviet astronomers. Both agreed that the position of the nebula in relation to Earth was a remarkable coincidence, placing it almost exactly at the pole of the Earth's orbit.

But the sceptics concluded that although Dr Fesenko's theory was "elegant and attractive", it was difficult to believe — not to say presumptuous — to suppose that NGC 6543 was a "beacon from a higher civilization".

It was equally fallacious, one of the astronomers remarked, to suppose that older galactic civilizations wished us well. They might have acquired "gigantic reserves of nuclear fuel" over the light years and needed somewhere to dump and destroy them, choosing the Earth's pole as a handy "proving ground".

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Among its many aims is a lower rise in hospital charges for BUPA members. In 1984, for example, this should average below the rate of inflation - at around three to five per cent.

The hospitals have also indicated that they will hold these charges for agreed periods and will give BUPA prior notice of any future increase.

And we have set up a simpler system of direct payment from BUPA to hospitals that reduces administration and makes the claiming procedure easier for our members.

A greater stability of costs will be a truly significant step forward in private medical care and will provide BUPA with an even more solid foundation on which to build for the years to come.

OUR MEMBERS

As a 'non-profit' organisation, BUPA has one concern above all others - namely the interests of its members.

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BUPA
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Moscow offers hope of détente

From Richard Owen
Moscow

President Chernenko said yesterday that confrontation in East-West relations could be turned into détente, but that the Soviet Union would "keep its gunpowder dry" in case the forces of Western imperialism proved stronger than communism.

Speaking to workers at the giant Hammer and Sickle foundry in Moscow, Mr Chernenko said Moscow was "ready for dialogue", but a reduction in nuclear arms meant a "really mutual reduction". If the United States and Nato go to it, there will be no lack of cooperation on our part.

In an article which coincided with Mr Chernenko's remarks, *Pravda* yesterday said the Kremlin was "ready to hold serious negotiations with any American president, even the incumbent one". It was not true that Moscow was blocking progress until the November election in the hope that Mr Reagan seen in Moscow as the arch-enemy of communism would be defeated.

Mr Chernenko, who since coming to power has insisted that Nato must withdraw its new missiles from Europe before arms talks resume, said that as long as the "nuclear missile danger" was hanging over Russia "our gunpowder must be kept dry".

"We must always be on our guard so that the correlation of forces does not change in favour of imperialism and we turn out to be weaker".

Last week Mr Chernenko



Order of merit: Portraits of

Politburo members go up on a Moscow street alongside that of Lenin. President Chernenko takes pride of place ahead of Gekdar Aliev and Vitaly Vorotnikov

said the new party programme to be adopted in 1986 would assume the eventual victory of world communism by peaceful means, but gave no target date.

Neither did he give a date for the achievement of "full communism" in Russia.

Yesterday Mr Chernenko thanked "thousands of Soviet patriots" for offering to work longer hours and set up a national defence fund. Russia's economic and defence capabilities were adequate, although far from everything has been done to supply the population with food and consumer goods.

Mr Chernenko is to appear

on Red Square tomorrow for the May Day celebrations.

In yesterday's speech at the Hammer and Sickle works he said his visit was part of Lenin's tradition of direct communication with the working people.

Andropov only made one factory visit during his 18 months in office, an occasion which he referred to when he asked a worker how much he earned and was told the man was officially retired but enjoyed wages far above the legal norm.

In a statement marking her fifth anniversary in power, Mrs Thatcher had said she was looking forward to the tasks for

the next five years and "beyond".

Tass said: "All these years they have been on the offensive against the social and economic rights of the working people."

He said Washington was using nuclear missiles and space weapons to try to gain superiority over Russia.

• Thatcher accused: Tass said yesterday that the Conservative government had been on the offensive against working people's rights since it was first elected five years ago (Reuters reports).

In a statement marking her fifth anniversary in power, Mrs Thatcher had said she was looking forward to the tasks for

the next five years and "beyond".

Tass said: "All these years they have been on the offensive against the social and economic rights of the working people."

Mrs Thatcher's statement tried to portray a rosy picture of the British economy, but unemployment had more than doubled under her administration. "Nevertheless, the Prime Minister did not suggest any radical measure which could really help the British working people to get rid of the hard consequences of the Conservatives' socio-economic policy".

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THE ARTS

The future of Mies van der Rohe's last building is at stake in a massive battle due to begin tomorrow about the redevelopment of London's Mansion House Square: Bryan Appleyard reports

Architecture at the barricades

Tomorrow begins perhaps the most significant set-piece architectural battle since the war. A Department of the Environment inspector, Mr Steven Marks, will sit down in London's Guildhall to hear some 40 witnesses defend the proposed redevelopment of Mansion House Square and some 15 - including those called by the City of London Corporation and the Greater London Council - condemn it. The arguments Mr Marks will hear will take in every conceivable variation of the modernist, post-modernist and conservationist views of architecture, and a glittering array of the profession's stars have agreed to appear. The atmosphere of embittered conviction from both sides suggests some medieval ecclesiastical disputation.

At stake is the future of the last building designed by Mies van der Rohe, one of the three most influential architects of the century. Those for it simply think it would be a masterpiece, those against either believe it outdated and inappropriate or they prefer the jumble of Victorian buildings which it would replace. The sheer formal perfection of these battle lines will make this inquiry almost unique. It will be as much an argument about the nature of art as about politics or planning.

The seed of this extraordinary confrontation was sown on a Sunday morning in 1952 at Eton, when a housemaster gave a seminar on the architecture of Mies. Peter Palumbo, the 17-year-old heir to a private property company, was entranced. He became infatuated with modern architecture and, 10 years later, he commissioned Mies to design the Mansion House Square scheme. Ten years after that he bought Mies's Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois. In the meantime, Mies had become godfather to Palumbo's daughter.

When commissioning the Mansion House development Palumbo had to warn Mies that there was little chance of the building starting before 1987 because of conditions surrounding the leasehold on the site. It was almost certain that the elderly Mies would have to work towards a posthumous project. Palumbo also told Mies that he wanted him to design everything, down to the ashtrays and door handles.

Some weeks later a parcel arrived in the post, full of brass handles and travertine marble ashtrays, with a note from Mies: "Is this what you had in mind?" The project was completed just in time. Two weeks before his death in August 1969

Mies placed the flagpole asymmetrically in the square in front of the office block, and the designs were finished.

The building, if it is approved, is likely to constitute a modernist masterpiece. The steel and glass tower improves on the calm purity of Mies's Seagram Building in New York, and its placing before an open square which runs over an underground shopping mall looks good in the model. The square would also open up views of Lutyens's Midland Bank building, Dance's Mansion House and Wren's St Stephen Walbrook. Even Palumbo, however, admits it has the disadvantage of opening up as well a view of Bucklebury House on its south side. If it were built, Britain would move in one leap from having no Mies buildings at all to having one of his best.

It is not that simple, of course. The history of the scheme has been perverse and complex. Palumbo first sought planning permission in 1968 and received it in principle from the City in 1969. That same year the GLC praised the building as being "of great merit". But in 1971 the Bank Conservation Area was designated, and in 1981 it was extended to cover many of the buildings on the site.

Between 1969 and 1974 Palumbo and the City had negotiated unsuccessfully on the details. In 1975 Palumbo applied for planning permission to refurbish existing buildings, to start to generate at least some income from his properties, but their condition was too bad for work to begin. In 1981 Palumbo had bought every freehold except one - the Bank of New Zealand - for a total outlay of about £25m and he reapplied for planning permission. In 1982 he was turned down and the GLC turned against him. Tomorrow the final conflict begins.

Palumbo's problem is that times have changed. Modernism in architecture has become unfashionable, superseded by a spectacular variety of styles all determined to escape from the stigma of windy tower blocks and dripping concrete. But, most significantly, the conservation movement has burgeoned and the organization SAVE Britain's Heritage has turned into one of the most ferocious opponents of the scheme. SAVE has even commissioned Terry Farrell - the architect of TV-am's Camden Town studios - to produce plans to refurbish the existing buildings.

The anti-Palumbo lobby claims that he will destroy the tightly-woven fabric of the City. The specific buildings to be demolished may not be brilliant but they

are supremely characteristic of that type of Victorian urban development, and they keep faith with the medieval street plan. In any case the whole Mies development is essentially un-English, redolent of Chicago rather than Cheapside.

Even if Palumbo jumps that hurdle, he is confronted by another: what is the sense of putting up an outdated building more than 20 years after it was designed? Is it like erecting a new pyramid?

Palumbo's counter at this point in the argument will be to wheel in British architecture's Big Three - Richard Rogers, Norman Foster and James Stirling. They will acknowledge that they could indeed produce alternative solutions but - and here they will insert a very sharp knife indeed into the non-conservationist opponents - they could not manage anything better.

Both sides at this stage think they can win, but the truth appears to be that the issue is wide open. In the last analysis it depends on the attitude of Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who is expected to deliver the final word in March 1985.

If Palumbo wins, he will immediately start to spend another £75m to bring up to £100m his total investment in that frisson he felt on a Sunday morning in 1952. As a businessman he knew from day one that the whole project was not financially sensible. The cost-effective route would have been refurbishment. But in Palumbo - who is after all to take over as the chairman of the Tate Gallery Trustees in June - the conservationists are not up against any old rapacious developer; they are fighting a sophisticated connoisseur of modern art. He feels he must try to keep faith with Mies as his last patron and successor of Herbie Greenwald, the American patron who commissioned much of Mies's greatest work.

The best and most eloquent argument came from the great architectural historian Sir John Summerson in a letter to *The Times* published in March 1982. He wrote that he felt "some sympathy with some" of the objections, but overall they amounted to a "pathetic aggregate of disconnected and even contradictory half-truths". Finally, he wrote, there was simply more to be said for it than has so far been said against it. Sir John, now aged 80, is likely to appear before Mr Marks in the second week of the inquiry. God and Patrick Jenkin willing, he ought to win the day for Mies.



Peter Palumbo with model of the Mansion House Square development

Television Tensions within

BBC2's Saturday night play, *The Trespasser of John*, is long but immensely rewarding. It required some patience at the outset, a certain tuning of the ear, for Don Taylor, who also directed it, wrote it in modern dramatic verse; and, ideally, an awareness of the international climate at the time of the Spanish Civil War when good appeared to stand out so clearly against evil.

But Mr Taylor is worth some indulgence, for he is able to stir the mind quite dramatically. Here he had a cast able to take hold of his language and convey the tensions within.

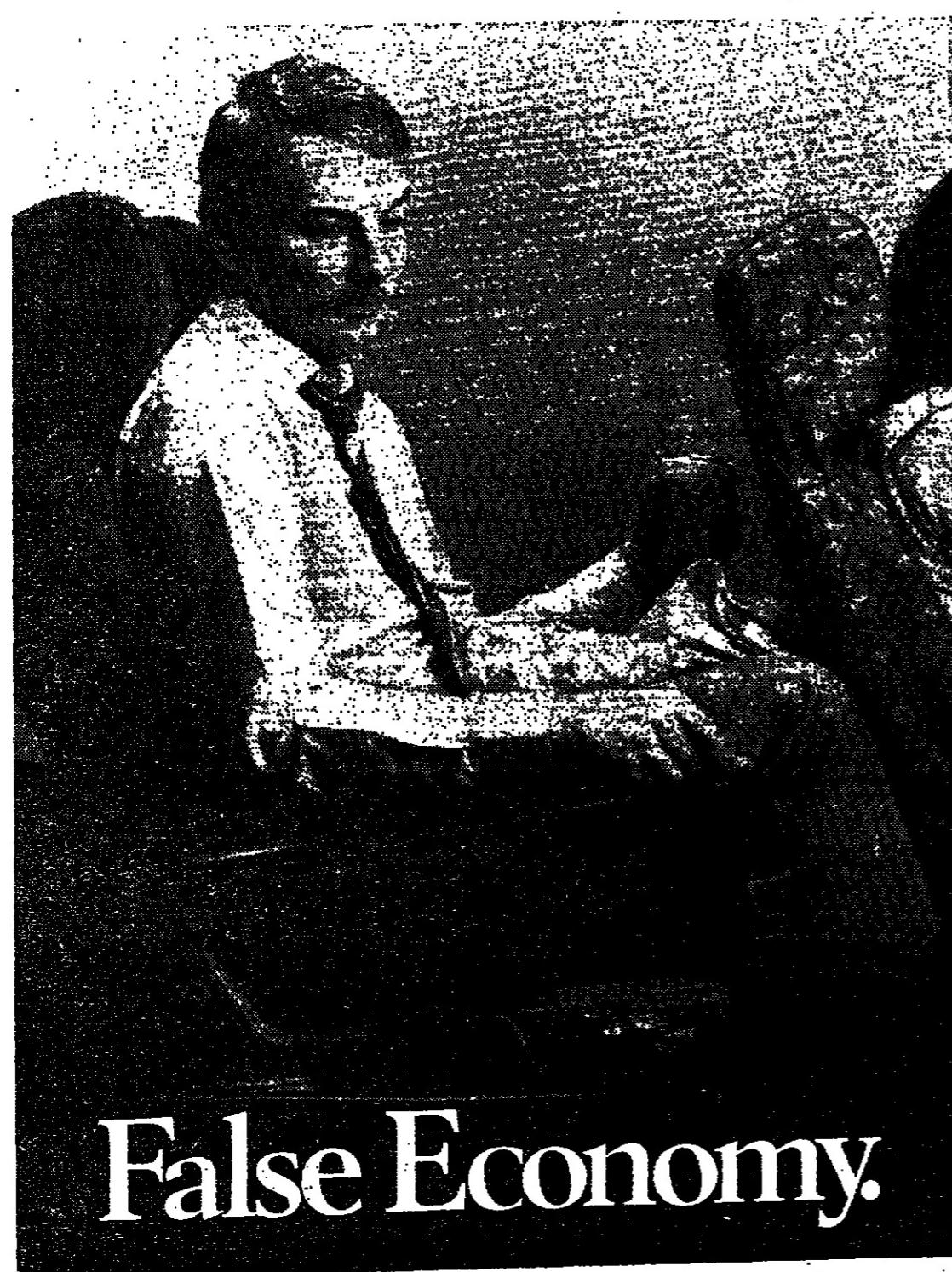
Kenneth Haigh was Robert Douglas, born after his father, John, had left his mother and gone to fight for what seemed to be the greater good. John appeared to have deserted both. Now, a retired and respected bookseller, he is living with the daughter born of a second, bigamous wife while he was a fugitive in France.

Robert, an academic historian, has tracked him down, and, in doing so, discovered evidence that suggests that - in addition to betraying his paternal responsibilities - he has also been guilty of political treachery resulting in the death of three of his comrades. Robert confronts him and his mystified half-sister with an eye to a double vengeance.

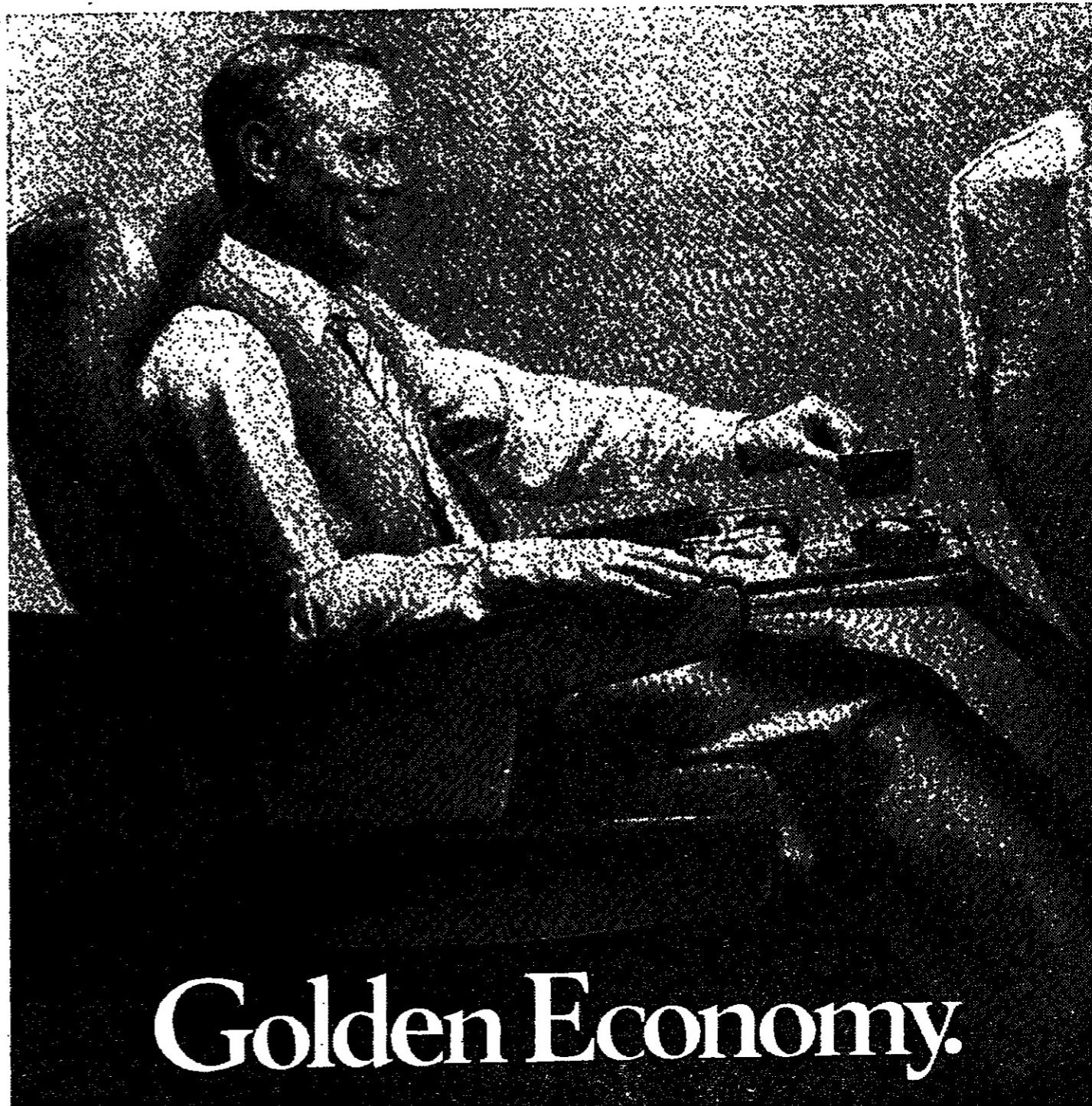
It was necessarily somewhat discursive, having not only to encompass the political shadings of almost fifty years ago but also the complex relationship of father and aggrieved son. It was a difficult task and Mr Taylor brought it off with considerable skill and, in the main, unremitting dramatic effect.

Anthony Quayle was magnificent as the father; Mr Haigh acidly implacable as the judicial son; Rosalie Crutchley not too harrowed as the deserted wife; and Jean Lapaire convincingly filial as the daughter. Louis Marks produced this unexpected Saturday night bonus.

Dennis Hackett



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SPECTRUM

Twenty years after it first spread in America, LSD, the most potent of the psychedelic drugs, is coming back. Seizures in Europe are rising again. Stewart Tendler and David May reveal the inside story of the men who put the drug into high quality mass production

The acid reign of King Owsley

By day, Canter's Delicatessen was a meeting place for the elders of the orthodox Jewish community living in the streets around Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles. Canter's, close to the junction of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, held a monopoly as the only eating place around the area which kept to the strict, complex food regulations of the Jewish faith. Reassured by the management's strictness, elderly men would sit lemon tea and bits, gossiping about children, grandchildren, Israel and the neighbourhood.

By night, when the old men had gone, their seats were taken over by hundreds of young people drawn from all over Los Angeles. There were other late opening delicatessens in Los Angeles, but the special attraction of Canter's was the booths where conversation could not be overheard. It was there the dealers sat and waited for business, passing a capsule of LSD or an ounce of marijuana under the table in exchange for a handful of dollars. Between two and four in the morning, a steady procession of cars stopped outside as customers arrived for the booth. Rich and poor congregated at Canter's, at 'Capsule Corner'.

Early one morning in 1966, as the crowd at Canter's began to build up towards its peak, four players sat round a table in an apartment a few blocks away to pass the time with a game of Monopoly. It was nearly 3am when they were interrupted by a group of people who had drifted over from the delicatessen. They knew most of the new arrivals, but they were not sure

Extracted from *The Brotherhood of Eternal Love*, by Stewart Tendler and David May, to be published by Granada at £2.50 on May 10

about the man with cameras. Someone stepped forward. "This is Lawrence Schiller", he said, "the guy I told you about who works for *Life* magazine. They wanted him to do a piece on LSD and Larry here is collecting material. He's all right."

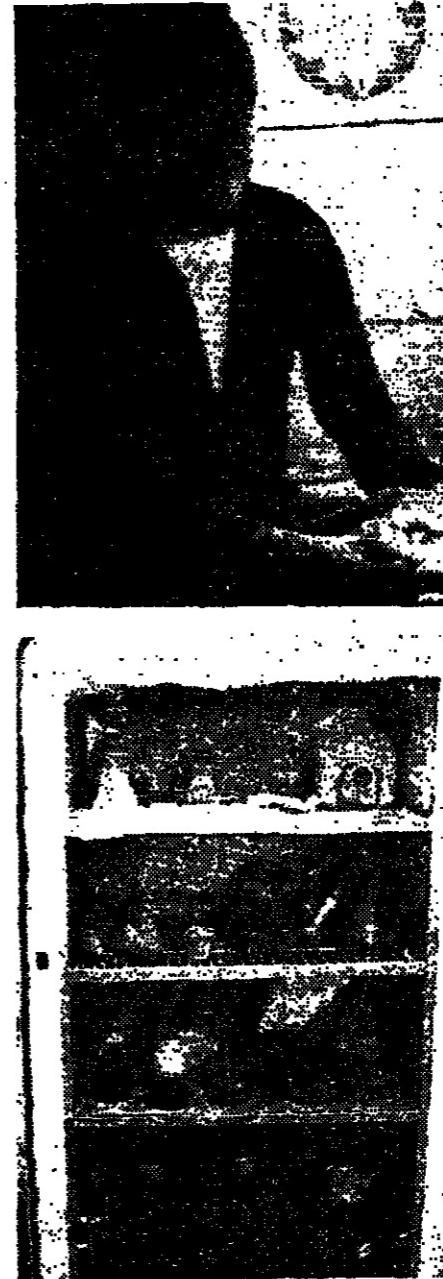
Schiller was trying to piece together the network of LSD distribution from maker to street user; he had been invited to witness the purchase of doses from distributors by middlemen: the four players were the middlemen and the apartment was the venue for the connection. To Schiller the apartment looked ordinary, another duplex like hundreds of others in the surrounding streets. He glanced round again and his gaze fell on the table. He started.

Owsley acid became a by-word among dealers

The Monopoly players, all teenagers, were nonchalantly tossing round real banknotes.

Schiller made a quick mental tally: ten, twenty... twenty-five... thirty... thirty-five. There lay \$35,000 split between four kids who told him they were an insurance company trainee, a student, a rock and roll musician and a full-time drug dealer.

The delivery was casual, too. Another kid, a girl, bounced into the apartment clutching a peanut butter jar filled with purple pills. She whirled around the room and said with glee, "Look what I got from Owsley". One of the boys frowned, glancing warily at Schiller. As the jar was emptied on the table to reveal



Augustus Owsley Stanley III (left), "the man who did for LSD what Henry Ford did for the motor car" and (top), Tim Scully. Above, The tools of the Owsley trade

thousands of LSD doses, Schiller and everyone else crowded round. The boy slipped away to telephone a number on the other side of Los Angeles.

The phone rang in a large, rambling, rented house in the west of the city. The man who answered the call was Augustus Owsley Stanley III, once described by US Government agents as the man who did for LSD what Henry Ford did for the motor car. Dubbed by Timothy Leary 'God's secret agent', he was the first underground chemist to mass-produce LSD to a high quality. 'Owsley Acid' had become a byword among dealers and users alike. Bespectacled, in his early thirties and with slightly sharp features, Owsley provided the expanding LSD market with doses by the hundred thousand. Grandson of a US senator and Kentucky governor, son of a government lawyer, he was on his way to becoming 'king' of LSD.

When the call from Capsule Corner came through, Owsley and his two associates - Melissa Cargill and Tim Scully were in a celebratory mood. As far as they knew, no one ever successfully tableted LSD before - until then. Owsley had made a white LSD powder which was dosed in capsules. The tabletting had been performed by hand, the finished pills poured into the peanut jar, then delivered. The run complete, he and his two assistants took a tablet each and sat back to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Owsley's first LSD laboratory had been near Pasadena. Creating a dummy company called Bear Research Group - 'Bear' was his nickname - Owsley ordered chemicals; within two months he took delivery of 500 grams of lysergic acid from a Los Angeles company at a cost of \$20,000. He paid in cash and followed up with another 300 grams bought from a second company. It was the last purchase of its kind to be made in the United States before tougher controls were established.

He met the Grateful Dead rock group and began experimenting with electronic equipment to improve their sound. He heard of a young scientist called Tim Scully, who was living near the university at Berkeley and was reputed to be an electronic genius. Owsley decided to find Scully and see if he would help design equipment.

Ironically, Scully was in fact looking for Owsley, but with LSD rather than electronics in mind.

The two met on Scully's front-door step in Hopkins Street, close to the campus, when Owsley knocked and introduced himself. They talked for several hours: Scully, the tall, lean, serious young man with a dry sense of humour, and Owsley, nearly ten years older, already a veteran of the LSD scene and very nearly the unofficial mayor of San Francisco, capital of the psychedelic world. Sure, said Owsley, he was going to make more LSD, but not just yet. Owsley was wary, wondering if Scully was an informer. Finally he suggested that Scully work with the Grateful Dead, and they would take it from there. Scully agreed and joined the band behind the scenes. But there came a point when Owsley's funds ran low. The answer was the purple pills.

The most difficult job was moving 'dry ice'

The money from the Capsule Corner tablets did not last very long, since Owsley was paying most of the Dead's expenses as well as contributing to many projects in the Bay area. He was beginning to feel that his role as major supplier conferred on him certain duties, and he was building up a

complex view of LSD and its potential. He saw himself as an alchemist, someone with a mission to make LSD available as a tool to alter history; whatever profits accrued were held in trust. A few months after the tabling Owsley decided to make more LSD and started the search for a new laboratory site.

A police raid on an illegal methadine factory some years before had taught Owsley the virtues of caution and security, almost to the point of paranoia. He was always careful to be late for appointments, to vary his movements and check whether he was under surveillance. So, when he came to consider laboratory sites, he sat down and thought out his requirements with great care. Point Richmond, the next laboratory near San Francisco, was the 'prototypical underground laboratory hidden in a suburb of Berkeley professors' homes. The laboratory was an ordinary timber house.

They brought in chemical supplies from companies around San Francisco that knew Owsley as a steady customer. The most difficult and unpleasant job was moving in 'dry ice' as part of a condensing process.

Owsley was still working on the basis of a formula for LSD - the formula released by Eli Lilly in the 1950s - which left out key details on purification and prevention of decay for commercial rather than security reasons. Point Richmond became proving ground for filling in some of those blanks. Owsley had got as far as crystal LSD which in itself required a reasonable level of purity, but he believed that if he could achieve absolute purity, then the LSD would be extra special with extra special results. Between them, Owsley and Scully created 20 to 30 grams of what they thought was the purest LSD anyone had yet produced. The crystal lost its yellowish tinge and became almost blue-white under a fluorescent lamp. It was pure enough to be piroluminescent - if the crystals were shaken or crushed, they gave off flashes of light. (LSD is one of a very small group of compounds with this property.)

Turning from purification, Owsley examined marketing considerations and decided to vary the dye on the crystal, instead of using only one shade. He took five ordinary food colourings, as approved by the Food and Drugs Administration for the food industry, and divided the LSD into 3,600 doses per gram. Each gram was split into five, mixed with dye and put into capsules. Although there was no difference between the capsules, the street dealers reported back that the users were giving the colours different qualities: red was considered laid back; green frantic; and blue the ideal compromise. Point Richmond began churning out 'Blue Cheer', as the capsules were dubbed by users.

Owsley's experimentation was over, however. In a small town north of San Francisco he rented a house from a man reported to be, ironically, a former guard at Alcatraz and moved in a tabletting machine, to make the first compression-moulded (machine-made) tablets to appear on the LSD scene. They were white, and became famous as 'White Lightning'. Between midsummer and October 1966 when the new California law banning LSD came into effect, the chemist and his apprentice produced between 200 and 300 grams of LSD, or approximately one million doses, worth \$1 million on the street.

Tomorrow: The fall of the LSD empire

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- 3 Great elation (8)
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- 5 Porched (4)
- 6 Attentive state (3,4)
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- 12 Convict (8)
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MONDAY PAGE

They all lived happily ever after. Or not, according to taste. Books programmed into computer cassettes with which the reader can vary the course of the story to suit a whim are the latest thing. Alan Franks investigates the new interactive literature

The moving finger rewrites the plot

A computer-backed revolution is stealing up on the book world, and publishers are bracing themselves for its impact with a mixture of hope and bewilderment. "Interactive literature", or fiction in which the reader can play an active part by feeding instructions through his keyboard, has already started to sell in Britain, and there is hardly a major publishing house which is not exploring the potential of the field.

"IL", as it is now popularly called, consists of whole books encapsulated in computer cassettes, allowing a variety of plots to be pursued by the user, depending on his ingenuity at the keyboard. In practical terms, this means that instead of being escorched through the story by its author in the conventional way, you can at any stage select a different set of options and take the narrative into another direction.

In its simplest detective form it enables you, as the sleuth, to solve a murder mystery by extracting vital pieces of information from the program. But now the technique is being extended by software specialists to existing works of fiction, enabling the home computer user to rework a book to his own conclusion.

There is already a mass market potential "on line"

The most telling harbinger of the trend is Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, which has already sold 100,000 copies in computerized form. Far from being a banal reduction of the original, it can fairly claim to use characters locations without traducing the spirit of either. Certainly it is a sophisticated affair, and even experienced "readers" are taking as long as 30 hours to complete it.

Interactive literature is not to be confused with straightforward computer games of the *Dungeons and Dragons* variety, although, given that much of its appeal rests in the element of quest and adventure, it owes a great deal to the conventions which that medium has established. Agatha Christie and C S Lewis are among the names of best-selling authors whose literary estates are now being approached by software publishers with a view to IL conversion.

Although there are as yet only about a dozen British-manufactured packages of interactive fiction on the market, the past decade has seen the emergence of several thousand game programs and it is this which is proving a source of encouragement to those on the literature side. To judge from the prognoses of the IL buffs at the recent London Book Fair at the Barbican, that figure of a dozen is set to explode one hundredfold in the next five years.

Their optimism is further justified by the fact that there are now two million Spectrum home computers in our households, and some 250,000 Commodore models. Taken together with other highly successful hardware, such as the BBC Micro B, it means that there is already a mass market potential "on line". Just as significant is the fact that such established authors as Robert A Heinlein (*Starship Trooper*), Harry Harrison (*The Deathworld Trilogy*) and Frank Herbert (*Dune*) are currently having their work turned

into IL. This year, one of the UK market leaders, Mosaic Publishing, has software by eight authors on its June-December list. They include Desmond Morris (*Isrock*) and Terry Jones (*The Saga of Eric the Viking*). Most of these cassettes can be used with the Spectrum 48 K, and some with the BBC Micro B, Electron or Commodore 64. Prices for a book/cassette package range from £6.95 and £14.95.

Meanwhile, Penguin Books have stepped smartly into the action with their *Korbi Trilogy* by P K McBride, each of the three packages costing £4.95 and usable with the Spectrum 16 K and 48 K. Melbourne House's *The Hobbit* retails at £14.95 (Spectrum 48 K and Commodore 64). This price is higher because of the complex pictorial element in the program.

At this early stage it seems likely that one hurdle facing the industry will be to persuade conventional publishers and literary estates that to re-order some fine novel for the home computer market need not necessarily amount to the desecration of a monument. In some instances the "shock of the new" may prove so much for the copyright owner that he could not countenance the idea of computer freaks tampering with the text. The onus therefore will be on software publishers to show that the act of passing the initiative from the author to the reader can actually enhance rather than minimise the original.

Having seen Douglas Adams's first screen jottings on his own modern classic *A Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, I can say that no matter how his "readers" choose to bend the story line, the prose is as fresh and as witty on the disc as it was on the page and the radio.

America is the cradle of the IL revolution

The cradle of the IL revolution is America. It was spawned in the late 1970s by a union between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduates interested in the netherworld of fictional goblins. A young fraternity set their minds to the creation of adventure games and formed the now burgeoning company, Infocom. Ten of these games, notably the *Zork Trilogy*, *Starcross* and *Deadline* are widely played by home computer users in Britain. So widely, that with the right equipment the players, like a latterday breed of radio hams, can key into "bulletin boards" and compare notes on their progress. "Can anyone out there tell me how to get out of this bloody coffin?" reads a typical entry.

Infocom and their "Interlogic Series" might be pioneers, but when we impose the revolution – as inevitably we will – let us hope we don't ape the style of their sales jargon, which makes Newspeak sound like fluency itself. The invoking together of literature and technology is uncharted terrain and the British publishers involved agree that there are almost as many pitfalls as possibilities. If this new medium is to avoid the stigma of being just a glorified game, then the writer must be allowed to play a larger role than the technocrat.

The Warlock of Firetop Mountain Spectrum 48K and Commodore 64 Book/cassette pack £6.95

The Hobbit Spectrum 48K and Commodore 64 Book/cassette £14.95

COLIN KAPP
author of
The Unorthodox Engineers: The Pen and the Dark

I have written hardly any novels or short stories which did not have a computer in them somewhere. It rather amuses me to see the wheel turning full circle and stories going into the computer. To me, that is both welcome and challenging, when one thinks of the influence which computers will have on virtually every aspect of life in the near future. I accept that the spoken word and printed page have served story-tellers well, but I get the feeling that

computers will serve them even better. You see, what we are seeing here – established tales turned into video devices – is just the tip of a very large iceberg. My reason for saying this is that micro-computers are developing in power and capability at an extraordinary rate and the limitations which beset today's games will soon be cut out. Now the reader gets the chance to be an active participant in the story, with his own influence on the course of events. Who knows how it's going to go? Soon we might be able to sail with HMS Ulysses, or help to destroy the guns of Navarone.

DOUGLAS ADAMS
author of
A Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy

You can't compare IL with literature. If you do, you can very easily make a fool of yourself. When Leo Fender first invented an electric guitar, one could have said: "But to what extent is this real music?" To which to answer is: "All right, well we're not going to play Beethoven on it, but at least let's look at what we can do." What matters is whether it's interesting and exciting. The thing I like about this, is that I can sit down and know that I am the first person to be working in this specific field, when you're writing a novel, you are aware that you are manipulating your readers. Here, you know you've going to make them think how it is that you want them to reason. I don't regard it as being an abdication of creative art, yes, at first I was horrified in fact, there is a sense in which now the author is even more in control because the "reader" has more problems to solve. All the devices of the novel are still at your disposal, because a novel is simply a string of words, and words can mean whatever you want them to. It just offers the opportunity to have a lot of fun.

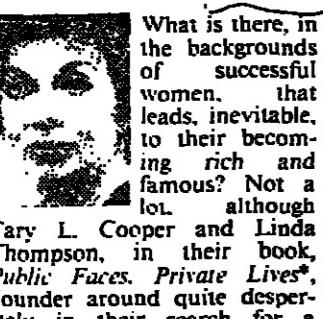


RICHARD GOLLNER
head of Radala Associates,
computer book
and software agents

The way it's been up to now is that you read a novel and I read a novel, and then afterwards we compare notes. That's all changing. Now we are both heroes and we can compare notes on just how we got on at being heroes. Take *Alice in Wonderland*. Sure, it's fun to read, but isn't it more fun getting to be Alice? Wouldn't you like to be Alice? I'd love to be Alice. Or else Agatha Christie. What about her? She may have been a very good writer, but honestly some of her plots are very creaky, and maybe she could use a helping hand. You know, interactive fiction is already having such an influence that there is a publisher planning to bring out a series of 30 *Choose Your Own Adventure* books. Nothing to do with computers just children's books in which the kids can choose between a whole variety of story lines by reading the pages in a different order. Here you have a case of the old technology (the book) beginning to acquire the characteristics of the new. In a way, this revolution's a bit like the early days of steam or electricity. They'd say: "Look. This machine works. See there. It makes the wheel go round over there." And then they'd say: "Hey, now what're we going to do with the wheel?" In this case, the answer is: "Plenty."

PENNY PERRICK

There is no pattern for success



What is there, in the backgrounds of successful women, that leads, inevitable, to their becoming rich and famous? Not a lot, although Cary L Cooper and Linda Thompson, in their book, *Public Faces, Private Lives*, flounder around quite desperately in their search for a common denominator.

The high achievers they interviewed, just like the low achievers they didn't, had experienced varying degrees of parental love. Joanna Lumley was "spoiled rotten". Jill Tweedie was made to feel that her mere existence "was a total mistake for everybody". Some like Esther Rantzen, had fathers who were "gender blind", encouraging and devoted. Some lost their fathers through death (Tracy Ullman) or divorce (Susan Hampshire).

Those whose early lives were secure and stable thought that this had contributed to their later success. Those whose childhood histories read like cases ripe for an NSPCC investigation were convinced that their early struggles had had a positive influence.

As the successful women grew up, their life stories

continued to run in diverse directions. Some left school early, others went on to university. Success came young to Petula Clark and Cilla Black; Glenda Jackson didn't hear her first applause until she had turned 30. Some married and lived happily ever after (Lynn Redgrave, Petula Clark), while some got divorced (Susannah York, Joanna Lumley).

Cooper and Thompson deduce that, to be happily married to a successful woman, a man should have a good self-image. One might equally say that a husband who is comfortable with his own personality is likely to be a delightful spouse for any woman. During the past 10 years, I too have interviewed several famous women, and have tried and failed to fit them into a formula.

It did sometimes strike me that a high proportion had very cleverly married men who took over the professional worrying. While Dame Vera Lynn sings in sell-out concerts all over the world, her husband, Harry Lewis, makes sure that the lighting is right, the hotel room booked and the travelling arrangements meshed. While Claire Rayner churns out problem pages and romantic novels, her husband Des takes over the finances. Billie Whitelaw's husband, Robert Muller,

even though he has an established reputation of his own as a playwright and novelist, is a very hardworking actress, I have just learnt the most enormous classical role, which I am playing every night, I would like to sit down with a cup of tea". (This, with the demands of home, husband and child, she is never able to do.)

If there is a conclusion to be drawn, and I'm not sure that there is, it is that the lives of famous women have more in common with those of ordinary women than with those of famous men.

Mr Alan Warzel, the programming vice-president of ABC, the American television company, defended his firm's portrayal of business executives as devilish fellows by pointing out that television tended to deal with larger-than-life situations and characters. Since, in real life, there have been businessmen who designed revolutionary cars and became involved with drug offences, businessmen who were created peers and went on to serve prison sentences, and businessmen who sold newspaper empires over breakfast at Claridges, it is possible the J R Ewing and Alexis Carrington are currently acting their hearts out in smaller-than-life situations.

To be published by Fontana on May 10, at £1.95.

Every one of us has scripted

quickly. The risk of pain for any longer time will ensure that, next time, I will have an epidural before the waters are broken.

For anyone who doesn't want to risk pain, especially with the first and often hardest labour, insist on drugs well before you think you need them. If you don't you may be lucky, but medicine now offers pain killers so free to use with them. I'd love to see a survey on the number of women who were all for natural childbirth beforehand, but demanded a bit of help the second time. Robert Graves wrote of his wife's first labour: "Nancy had no foreknowledge of the experience – I assumed that she knew – and it took her years to recover from it."

Hilary Gomer

Pain and propaganda in the labour ward

I want to put in a plea for women who do not wish to risk a painful labour, and suckle to the National Childbirth Trust. Leboyer, Sheila Kitzinger and all advocates of "natural" birth. The word "labour" was not coined without reason, and my first labour was nothing less than a trauma. Although I cannot conjure up the pain (a totally inadequate word under the circumstances), I shall never forget it.

I attended all my ante-natal classes and never once heard the dread word "pain" from our (childless) physiotherapist teacher. Screaming, I remember her saying, was "a thing of the hospital's labour wards. Ho, ho.

My contractions started

robustly as soon as my waters broke. Three hours later, with everything under control, the midwife said breezily that my child would be born before she had finished her shift in four hours' time, adding that my breathing was excellent.

But things got nastier and then totally out of hand. Breathing was just not relevant. When the contractions became so fierce and so close together that there was no time to recover from each vice-like grip, I laboured on until the midwife asked to stop work, took pity and suggested an epidural.

They didn't give me a "top up" of the blessed stuff because they wanted me to push naturally during the second stage. Alas, after an hour's renewed agony (with no urge to push), they decided to reactivate the epidural, give me an

episiotomy and winch the baby out with forceps. I remember, just before my child was born and after 12 hours of contractions, praying that I wouldn't hate her on sight. Fortunately, I didn't. It wasn't her fault after all.

For my second delivery our strategy was to have an epidural on arrival. Contractions had been painless until the midwife speeded things up and broke the waters. By the time the anaesthetist came down half an hour later, I was losing the battle.

I was moving too much to fit the epidural, he said. My husband was about to beg for pethidine when nature came to the rescue. Our infant arrived 10 contractions later.

"Aren't you glad you didn't have an epidural?" my young midwife asked cheerfully, as I clutched a blue, slimy boy. Yes, but only because it was over so

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PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

Reflections on a shiny new Louvre

It is beginning to be realized that one of the characteristics of the Fifth Republic, with its strong presidency, is that each president wants to leave his mark on Paris.

Under de Gaulle, buildings were cleaned of their centuries of grime. Under Pompidou, the oil refinery-like arts centre which bears his name was started, though it came on-stream only under his successor, Giscard d'Estaing. M. Mitterrand will be the first ruler since the Pharaohs to leave behind him a pyramid. This, it may be remembered, is to rise in the courtyard of the Louvre, which was thought to need a new entrance that would connect quickly through underground corridors to its wings.

The design accepted was for an Egyptian edifice, the work of an architect named Mr Pei who is a Chinese-American. To chauvinists, there were thus at least three grounds for objections. But many Parisians thought the design looked good in the newspapers and so welcomed the silly idea. More and more are having second thoughts as additional information becomes available. Too late! M. Mitterrand, acting with the authority the president possesses over national monuments, decreed that the pyramid should rise. The workmen's boards are already up in the courtyard. Excavation appears imminent.

What many did not realize was that the reflecting material of which the pyramid will be made will indeed reflect. This works well when one skyscraper reflects another in New York. But the Louvre, a seventeenth century palace, will be reflected on to twentieth century mock Egyptian. It is also possible that the pyramid will reflect the distorted images of hundreds of Japanese tourists.

Worse, the underground course below the pyramid will be an area of steel and glass modernity to make visitors, especially the young, feel they are not coming to anything as stuffy as an old museum. The Pompidou Centre is built on the same principle. Thus its entrance and escalators are strewn with paper cups and half-eaten croissants, since if you do not think you are in a stuffy museum, you tend not to behave as if you are in one. The Louvre entrance is defiantly stuffy - marmoreal stone steps and a welcome from that winged Greek lady without her head. No one sheds a croissant with her around. The tragedy is that M. Mitterrand is by speech, manner and training, himself a stuffy. His pyramid will be an inappropriate legacy.

Buildings last longer than policies. Pompidou was prudent and successful on policies, yet the ages will remember him largely by his hideous centre - now the leading tourist attraction in Paris, say the figures, almost certainly because people come to glimpse the now-legendary hideousness! Giscard will be regarded more favourably; he built nothing. Indeed, Pompidou's early death took place just when opinion was moving against modernity and when he was about to commit more atrocities with which, according to the gossips, Giscard did not proceed.

On reflection, one architectural change did take place under M. Giscard: the arrival of the cream, automated public lavatories (a few of which have now reached London), which charge one franc a time, have piped music, boast an elaborate cleaning mechanism, and which do virtually everything except the actual defecation. M. Giscard's rule thus swept away the old iron-walled pisseurs for men, the feet of whose customers were visible during the relief.

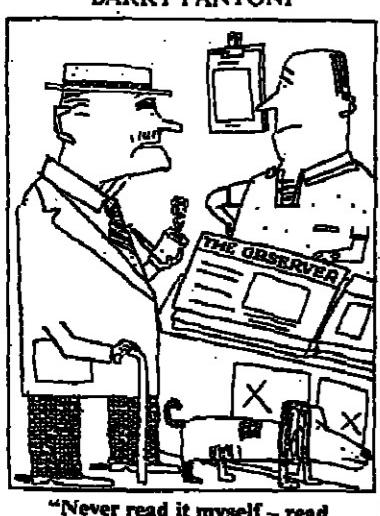
Now London's public conveniences are more foul than those of Paris: the most eloquent of all symbols to the astonishing reversal, these last 25 years, in the fortunes of our two nations.

Ma Dieu!

The French are following closely the British suggestion that God might not be a man. *Le Monde* reports a document on this possibility, from *la très austère église d'école*.

No French church authority of importance has yet chanced an opinion. But the cartoonist Pessin has depicted a female Christ carrying a cross and a Roman soldier inquiring: "Would you allow me to help you?" Troublesome is expected for Pessin on grounds of blasphemy. Why should he have assumed, in the age of the modern Israeli army, that the Roman soldier would have been a woman?

BARRY FANTONI



"Never read it myself - read a lot about it, though"

Put public schools to the test

by John Rae

Independent schools believe in parental choice, but deny parents information that is needed to make their choice effective. In particular, they are secretive about the results of public examinations and go to considerable lengths to prevent parents comparing the results of one school with another.

The law now requires maintained schools to publish exam results. Independent schools are not bound by this law, so practice varies widely. Some schools make a limited summary of results available on request. Some are not even prepared to do even that. Some present results in a misleading way.

There are several ways of making exam results look better than they are. One is not to give the number of candidates; a 100 per cent pass rate in A-level maths looks impressive, until you discover that the school had only three candidates. Another method is not to name the grades. At A-level, an overall pass rate tells parents little; what they need to know is the grades. The difference between a top and bottom pass grade at A-level is more revealing of a school's academic performance than the difference between pass and fail. It is also possible to disguise both the grades and the failures. One girls' school publishes a list of A-level candidates with the subjects in which they passed. But how many subjects were failed, and what grades did the passes represent?

It is surprising that parents appear to be satisfied with these scraps of information that headmasters and headmistresses design to throw their way. If I were trying to decide whether to move my daughter from a girls' school to a boys' school sixth form, I should want to know how the two schools' A-level results compared, not just in global terms, but subject by subject. If she wanted to do A-level physics, I should want to know how many physics candidates each school had, what percentage of the candidates scored grade A and so on. It would not tell me the whole truth but would give me a line on the quality of teaching in that subject in both schools. This is more helpful than the anecdotal evidence and dinner-table gossip on which parents usually have to rely.

Why are independent schools hypersensitive about any arrangement that would enable parents to compare schools' results? They operate in a competitive market and are happy to publish information that gives them an edge over their rivals, but direct comparisons are taboo. "You must not ask me to comment on that school," the head tells prospective parents: "I am sure it is good - neither better nor worse than us, just different." What he fears is that the publication of comparative exam results will prove that in that respect at least the other school is better.

The heads' objection to making comparative results available is that it would encourage the publication of league tables, which in turn would distort the schools' priorities. Independent schools do not want

to be A-level factories. Heads also argue that exam statistics need to be placed in the context of the school's academic policy.

These are sensible objections, but they rely too much on the assumption, commonly held by heads, that parents are incapable of drawing intelligent conclusions from statistics of exam performance.

Parents are not so foolish as to regard exam results as the only evidence of a school's academic quality, but they have a legitimate interest in the results. They might take the view that comparisons would stimulate heads to tackle any academic weaknesses that might exist.

I believe that all independent schools should be required to give full details of A and O-level results each year to the Independent Schools Information Service, which would then make available any comparisons that parents wanted. It should be possible for a prospective parent to summon up these on the ISIS computer. Once that principle was established, it could be extended to other information such as the number of pupils going to Oxford and Cambridge as a percentage of the year group.

I write as an individual, and I have no doubt the organizations representing independent schools will oppose my suggestion. I think parents will welcome it. Is it not time the independent schools stopped treating them as though they were children who cannot be trusted with the facts?

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The author is headmaster of Westminster School.

Peter Hennessy on the secret world of the Cabinet committees

Whitehall's real power house

This week at least ten and maybe as many as 15 Cabinet committees will meet either in the Cabinet Office or the Cabinet Room at Number Ten. Unless the Downing Street press secretary is authorized to brief political correspondents, non-attributably, naturally, on what transpired at the meetings, there is little chance of MPs or the public finding out until a White Paper is published, a decision announced or even, in many instances, until January 1, 2025 when the files will be broken open at the Public Record Office under the 30-year rule.

Yet since 1916, when Lloyd George established the Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet machine has been the engine room of British central government and the Cabinet committees its working parts. They are where political power and bureaucratic power meet. They are the forum in which options are considered before decisions are set in concrete.

Anyone interested in understanding the real, hidden government in Whitehall - as opposed to the visible, semi-artificial version, shaped largely by presentationary factors - which dominates life at Westminster, must concentrate on the Cabinet committees. Very rarely is life in the engine-room penetrated by outsiders, whether they be journalists, MPs on a select committee, or scholarly researchers.

When it is, another time-honoured part of the Whitehall apparatus creaks into action - the leak inquiry machine.

Only one other nation in the western world practices private government on this scale: the Republic of Ireland. A study, conducted last year by Dr Brian Hogwood and Mr Tom Mackie of

Strathclyde University discovered that all the OECD nations which operate a parliamentary system were prepared to give them their Cabinet committee lists, with the exception of Whitehall and Dublin.

In fact, Mrs Thatcher has gone further than any previous prime minister in opening up the Cabinet committee system. She has acknowledged the existence of four economic strategy, home affairs, legislation and overseas and defence (see chart where these are depicted as EA, H, L and OD). The Times knows of the existence of a further 48. Which leaves roughly another 85 to go to.

Latest intelligence suggests that Mrs Thatcher's engine room consists of some 25 standing committees and about 110 ad hoc groups known as MISCs (for *Miscellaneous*). Ministers have been near paranoid of late about leaks. They might consider just how little is known before complaining about how much has seeped out. The score, in Cabinet Committee terms, is very nearly Secrecy 3, Open government 1.

Even a partial plan of Mrs Thatcher's engine room is revealing about her style of government. Firstly, its size is trim by post-1945 standards. Mr Attlee's engine room was a monstrous 466 committees, accumulated in six and quarters years. Mr Callaghan amassed about 190 in three years. At 135 to 140 in exactly five years, Mrs Thatcher is doing well in combating committeemania. But her machine is far bigger than she bargained for in May 1979. On entering Number Ten she told her top officials she did not want any Cabinet committees at all.

"Events", as one of them put it, "soon took care of that".

She has kept her Cabinet machine slim in comparison to Mr Callaghan, for example, by brigading functions into one body or by almost ignoring some policy areas altogether. For example, there is now no separate standing ministerial committee on Northern Ireland. It is handled by OD. The glaring gap in our chart is social policy. The Wilson and Callaghan engine rooms had several clusters of ad hoc groups. What little discussion of social policy today is taken by H or in committees established for negative purposes, like MISC 87 on the deindexation of benefits.

Normally, Cabinet committees are a good guide to a government's real priorities by revealing where the action is in Whitehall. Sometimes this sub-branch of Kremlinology breaks down. For example, the cabinet committee on reform of the House of Lords, H(HL), met but only a few times and the only outcome was a decision that nothing should be done.

Sir Maurice Hankey, the first Secretary of the Cabinet, would instantly recognize his and Lloyd George's handiwork if the list kept by Sir Robert Armstrong, Mrs Thatcher's Secretary of the Cabinet, reached that part of heaven in which deceased permanent secretaries are corralled. There is the traditional distinction between standing and ad hoc groups, committees made up of ministers and those containing only officials. There are one or two mixed bodies, like the Civil Contingencies Unit which handles emergencies caused by industrial disturbance (another Lloyd George invention; he called it The Supply and Transport Committee).

The reason for this, on the face of it, remarkable survival of a 1916-model Cabinet machine, is the mysterious process by which power is transferred in Britain from one prime minister to another. The second person a new premier sees on entering Downing Street (the first is the Principal Private Secretary) is the Cabinet Secretary, the wearer of Hankey's mantle. He delineates certain urgent matters crying out for decision and suggests the kind of groups the prime minister's newly-appointed senior ministers might like to form for the purpose. Before the new incumbent knows where he or she is, there before his or her eyes is a 68-year-old system for running Britain.

When it comes to committees, Whitehall is like successive Russian armies which melt away into ice and snow as soon as their opponents try to engage them. Even if by some miracle (like a kind soul putting the full list of Cabinet committees in the post) all the bits of Mrs Thatcher's formal engine room were uncovered, the picture would still be incomplete. She has a penchant for handling difficult or delicate issues with informal ad hoc groups of ministers, officials and aides from the Downing Street Policy Unit, some of which enjoy the formal status of a Cabinet committee. She has an economic group for really market-sensitive decisions. There is another group, currently active, watching every development in the coalfields. There is even one pondering the future structure of the Property Services Agency.

The Cabinet committee list is an extended version of a chart contained in Sources Close to the Prime Minister by Michael Cockerell, Peter Hennessy and David Walker, to be published by Macmillan on June 7, 29.95.

CABINET OFFICE

Committee Initials	Chairman	Functions
ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL		
EA	Margaret Thatcher (Prime Minister)	Economic strategy, energy policy, changes in labour law, the most important EEC matters
ESEX (ENI)	Margaret Thatcher	Exports policy
E(NF)	Nigel Lawson (Chancellor of the Exchequer)	Public sector strategy and oversight of the nationalized industries
NIP	Nick Monck (Treasury official)	Nationalized industry finance
E(PSP)	Nigel Lawson	Official committee on nationalized industry policy
E(DL)	Nigel Lawson	Public sector and public service pay policy
E(PL)	Norman Tebbit (Trade & Industry Secretary)	Disposal and privatization of state assets
E(CS)	Peter Hayes (Chief Secretary)	"Buy British" policy for public purchasing
E(OCS)	Peter Lawrence (Cabinet Office official)	Civil Service pay and contingency plans for Civil Service strikes
PESC	John Anson (Treasury official)	Official committee for preparing contingency plans
		Committee of finance officers handling the annual public expenditure survey
OVERSEAS AND DEFENCE		
OD	Margaret Thatcher	Foreign affairs, defence and Northern Ireland
OD(O)	Sir Robert Armstrong (Cabinet Secretary)	Permanent secretaries group working to OD
OD(E)	Sir Geoffrey Howe (Foreign Secretary)	EEC policy
EQ(S)	David Williamson (Cabinet Office official)	Committee of deputy secretaries steering OD(E)
EQ(O)	David Hannay (Foreign Office official)	Official committee on routine
OD(SA)	Margaret Thatcher	Committee on the South Atlantic, the so-called "War Cabinet" of 1982
		Committee on the future of the Falklands
		Preparation of future initiatives
HOME LEGISLATION AND INFORMATION		
L	John Bliffen (Leader of the House)	Future legislation and Queen's speech
H	Lord Whitelaw	Home affairs and social policy, including education
CCU	Lord Whitelaw	The Civil Contingencies Unit of the Cabinet Office which plans for the maintenance of essential supplies and services during industrial disputes
H(HL)	Lord Whitelaw	Reform of the House of Lords
HD	Leon Brittan (Home Secretary)	Home (je) civil defence
HD(O)	David Goodall (Cabinet Office official)	Official committee shadowing HD
HD(P)	David Goodall (Home Office official)	Updating of central and local government civil defence plans
AD HOC		
MISC 3	John Dempster (Lord Chancellor's Dept official)	Public records policy
MISC 7	Margaret Thatcher	Replacement of the Polaris force with Trident
MISC 14	Nigel Lawson	Policy innovations
MISC 15	Formerly head of Think Tank post now defunct	Official group for briefing
MISC 21	Lord Whitelaw	Ministerial committee which meets each autumn to fix the level of rate and transport support grant for local authorities
MISC 32	David Goodall	Deployment of the Armed Forces outside the Nato area
MISC 42	David Goodall	Military assistance (eg training of personnel) for the armed services
MISC 51	David Goodall	Commodities needed for strategic purposes, eg oil
MISC 58	John Dempster	Liberating the declassification of official documents
MISC 62	Lord Whitelaw	The "Star Chamber" for forcing spending cuts on departmental ministers
MISC 79	Lord Whitelaw	Alternatives to domestic rates: rate-capping
MISC 83	David Goodall	Internal constitutional arrangements for the Falklands
MISC 87	Nigel Lawson	De-indexing of benefits
MISC 91	Margaret Thatcher	Choice of ALARM anti-radar missile
MISC 95	Margaret Thatcher	Abolition of the GLC and the metropolitan counties

Ferdinand Mount

The flourishing art of lying

In *The Decay of Lying*, Oscar Wilde feared for the future of the fabricator's art. He claimed that "the fashion for lying has almost fallen into disrepute"; facts were everywhere; the twentieth century would be swamped by dreary truth. On

the contrary, this has turned out to be the century of the con man. No falsehood has been too crude, blatant or improbable to be believed by somebody, often by several million somebodies. Wilde should really have written about *The Decay of Incredulity*.

So eager are we to believe in the sincerity of others that, faced with an unmistakable whopper or series of whoppers, we prefer, if at all possible, to explain it away by saying "the man's mad." The lies Colonel Gaddafi tells are so repugnant to sense that we prefer to believe that he has lost his senses, the same with General Amin. The fact that such "madmen" survive in power for years and show considerable ability in retaining power forces us into the further reaches of amateur psychiatry: "psychopaths can be incredibly cunning," we mutter. But then how far does professional psychiatry reach? British psychiatrists scarcely covered themselves with glory in the case of the Yorkshire Ripper. Nor did their American counterparts do much better in the case of the Hillsborough Strangler, Kenneth Bianchi.

Bianchi's interrogation by the psychiatrists was screened by the BBC just before Easter. Part One showed nice, well-spoken Ken going into a "trance" and turning into nasty, foul-mouthed Steve who was quite unmoved by having murdered 12 young women. The truce would not have deserved a 12-year-old child, yet it fooled all except one of the shrinks. Part Two showed the ever-skeptical Los Angeles police unmasking Bianchi as a liar, pimp and mugger-up of psychiatric literature.

Without lessening our concern for the distressed in mind, we need to recover a sense of human cunning, a fascinating quality even when debased. The dimmest people are often extremely good at telling the most ingenious lies. And the secret of their success is our willingness to think of half a dozen reasons why they must be telling the truth. "He can't be lying, it is said:

"...because he couldn't keep it up that long." In fact, contrary to the myth put about by romantic fiction, people can live a lie quite happily for years. "...because he couldn't possibly have the technical knowledge to make it all up." A couple of teach-yourself books and a white coat will go a long way. "...because he has not got the imagination to invent it all." But fantasies come easy. It's the truth that's harder to describe. "...because he cannot possibly think we'd believe him." But suppose he doesn't care. Or suppose that he has that far-fetched instinct for the improbable detail which convinces by its sheer improbability.

"...because he has nothing to gain from the lie." But suppose he believes, in Wilde's words, that "the only form of lying that is beyond reproach is lying for its own sake"; suppose he believes in the sheer irresponsibility of making things up. We all know a few people like that, and they are usually not mad at all.

The author was until recently head of the policy unit at No 10 Downing Street.

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EXPLANATIONS WANTED

The public as well as the House of Commons will expect a full and candid statement from the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, this week about the circumstances surrounding the atrocity committed from the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square and the agreement eventually reached with the Libyan government to allow the occupants of the premises, including the murderer of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, to leave Britain in freedom.

Mr Brittan's task is unenviable, for there is no way in which this episode and its ending (ballyhoo in the media about the return from Tripoli of our own diplomats and their families notwithstanding) can be presented as other than a humiliation for the United Kingdom. Murder was committed on our streets from an embassy safe-house, and there was nothing we could do to bring the criminal to justice without unacceptable consequences and without infringing the Vienna Convention to which we are in honour committed, and which now clearly needs amendment.

Given all the circumstances, including the risks to so many British nationals in Libya, and the virtual impossibility of getting a conviction of the criminal without Libyan co-operation, there was in the end no practical alternative to the course finally adopted to end the siege of the St James's Square premises. It is not, therefore, so much the way in which this terrible affair ended as the circumstances from which it arose on which minds should now be concentrated.

The questions fall into two distinct categories. First, there are those relating to the time immediately before the murder of WPC Fletcher and the attack from the former embassy on Libyan demonstrators outside. Above all, there is the matter of the alleged radio message from Tripoli which is believed to have revealed, when de-coded, that the instructions to use force against the demonstrators came the night before the event from Colonel Gaddafi. Mr Brittan

should state whether there was such a message, and if there was, he should describe its nature. He should say whether any such message was decoded in time to have enabled precautions to be taken against what occurred, to whom it was passed and why (assuming this was the case) it did not reach Whitehall in time. Did it, furthermore, give any indication of the bomb explosion at Heathrow on Good Friday?

These are all important questions relating to the immediate circumstances to which the government must give clear answers through Mr Brittan and on which, if it fails in any respect that cannot clearly be justified by security, it must be pressed until it is forthcoming enough. But there are deeper and perhaps, ultimately, more important issues behind this affair which are not for Mr Brittan but for the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, to answer. They concern the role of the Foreign Office which has responsibility for the policy which led to these events.

It is the Foreign Office which has been responsible for the policy of maintaining diplomatic relations with the Libyan government, despite the takeover of the embassy by revolutionary "students" who were Colonel Gaddafi's agents, and when it was already clear (even if firm evidence, in the nature of the case, was unavailable) that these premises provided a headquarters for the terrorism that was already being unleashed against Libyan dissidents in Britain on Colonel Gaddafi's open instructions.

To the argument that there should have been much firmer insistence on a return to the diplomatic decencies as the price of maintaining our diplomatic relations with Libya, the Foreign Office's answer (via Mr Brittan) is, apparently, that British policy was firm enough since it refused to accord the "students" the status of diplomats. But that was all the more reason in logic for refusing to maintain diplomatic relations with the government that put them in charge of its "Bureau." Once more, diplo-

matic timorousness has brought about the dangers it has sought to avoid.

The Foreign Office has displayed its inbuilt disposition to regard diplomacy as an end in itself to keep talking with people at all costs, whoever the people are and almost whatever their behaviour; and to avoid a critical appraisal of what lies at the end of a line of diplomacy. In many respects, the Foreign Office is regarded as a firm within a firm, and certainly Sir Geoffrey Howe (who was perambulating the Far East during the siege of St James's) has shown no sign of the fundamentals of Foreign Policy in hand (what Foreign Secretary ever has?) as he took in hand the policy of the Treasury as Chancellor and, with the Prime Minister as his goad, changed it.

Far more than most Cabinet ministers, Foreign Secretaries tend to become creatures of their department which inflicts on its ministers a punishing programme of foreign travel keeping them circulating the globe like smooth-talking Flying Dutchmen. In the periods when they do come to rest, they have neither the time nor the spirits to get to grips with the fundamentals of policy, or to ask the basic sceptical questions about existing policy that are the principal contribution of a department's political head.

These deeper questions of the Foreign Office's role in the making of policy over Libya deserve thorough enquiry, along with the other circumstances of the crime in St James's Square.

A long and laborious enquiry by an independent commission may not, however, be the best way of going about it. An investigation by the Commons' Select Committee on Foreign Affairs is probably better, and on the evidence of the Grenada inquiry, could do what was necessary. It should take on this task, for however candid Mr Brittan is in the House this week, he will not be able to answer all the questions which have been raised by this lamentable episode.

LOCAL VOTES MATTER

Expressing a ballot box preference in matters of government – including the government of those powerful corporations the trade unions – is a distillation of the political will: take one such expression away and the culture of a mature, self-governing people may be diminished. For that reason municipal elections do count. Low turn-outs – predictable though they are – occasion dismay. On Thursday this week electors in an array of district council areas throughout England and Scotland and in parts of Wales have an important choice. Their very presence at the polling booths in this year of rate-capping and major council reorganization cannot but be an implicit statement about this organ of self-government.

In at least two of Thursday's contests there are impressive local stakes. In Birmingham the electorate has an opportunity to pass judgment on the administration, since 1982, of Mr Neville Bowesorth and the Conservatives. They have cut the rates (thanks, it must be said, to some luck from the lottery of the rates support grant settlement). They have secured a reorganization of that most basic of municipal services, refuse collection and have gone some distance down the road of confronting the pretensions of the National and Local Govern-

ment Officers' Association. Birmingham politics offer also a Labour Party still dominated if not by the "moderates" then by men and women who accept Chamberlainite limits on municipal activity. What a pity if the brick innards of this city did not resound on Thursday with a genuinely local clash of individuals and programmes.

So, too, in Liverpool. Let no one pretend that the "people" are always right. It would be wrong for the electors of Liverpool, an abandonment of the port-city's fibrous civic tradition, to condone the programme being set before them by Mr Derek Hatton and the Labour Party majority. His utopianism is dangerous. Their judgment could precipitate the budgetary crisis which has loomed since March 29 and with it the need for some external involvement whether through the mechanism of the district auditor and the courts or directly (and very much the last gasp) from the Department of the Environment. But which is the greater enemy – mistaken electoral choice or apathy?

Local government has, sad to say, always been a pursuit of minorities. This was as true of such great struggles (now obtaining mythological proportions) as in Poplar in the 1920s when, on

a restricted franchise, less than 40 per cent of electors voted for George Lansbury and the socialists, as in the election of the Greater London Council in 1981 which brought Mr Livingstone to fame and fortune. No one can fully respect an electoral system in which – according to a restricted poll paid for by the GLC last year – barely two per cent of Londoners could name the councillor elected for their constituency and claiming to speak on their behalf. This figure holds elsewhere. It debilitates the claim of representativeness made by local government's friends.

Yet ministers and all those concerned about the mismatch within local government of taxation, spending and voting should not rejoice either in civic ignorance or in apathy at the polls – however tempted they may be this week to claim that the likely size of the non-voters' block is an endorsement of their policies towards the councils. Local apathy (and the tissue of resentments and alienation it may conceal) ultimately infects democratic politics in the nation at large. Local government, unfortunately, may be a minority pursuit from which the people in their majority turn away – as this week may again show – but the issues with which it deals are real and affect us all.

NEW ONSLAUGHT ON THE AFGHANS

The assault on the Panjshir Valley shows that the war in Afghanistan is being intensified under President Chernenko; it does not, however, suggest any fundamental change in Soviet policy. The saturation bombing by planes based across the border in the USSR, and dramatic increase in the number of Soviet troops, indicate a renewed determination to end the war by crushing the largest centres of opposition.

As rulers of a multinational empire, the Soviet leaders fear that withdrawing their troops from this neighbouring territory might encourage separatist movements in the USSR itself. According to dissident sources, five people were arrested in Dushanbe, capital of the Soviet republic of Tadzhikistan, for circulating leaflets protesting against the war. Said to have links with the *mujahidin*, they were transferred to Moscow for further interrogation. Other reports of Afghan partisans penetrating the USSR's Muslim republics to spread the Islamic

revolt confirm that the Kremlin has reason for concern.

Because of Western radio broadcasts which have included the first-hand accounts of Soviet soldiers who deserted or were captured, Soviet citizens have a growing awareness of the true state of affairs; this directly contradicts the official explanation, unchanged since Brezhnev. The Kremlin marked the sixth anniversary of the communist takeover in Kabul by sending a message to President Karmal reassuring him that Moscow's "internationalist aid" would continue to uphold "the gains of the April Revolution". But since 1979 more than 20,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed or badly maimed, and casualties on this scale demand some public acknowledgement.

The newspaper of the Defence Ministry, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, recently told its readers of a heroic lieutenant who volunteered for service in Afghanistan but had both feet blown off by a mine during an earlier action in

the Panjshir Valley. Awarded a medal and fitted with artificial limbs, he was allowed to continue his army career "by way of an exception". Another article had a major on leave telling his young son of the death of a comrade, "the pride of our battalion", who was posthumously decorated for valour. The reality, however, is often very different, as the youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* pointed out. A young soldier, paralysed by a sniper's bullet, was invalided home to his mother's tiny flat, unable in his invalid chair to enter or leave independently, and abandoned by the heartless local authorities.

As the impact of the war strikes home, demonstrations of opposition are bound to increase. The pressure is on the Soviet leaders to end the war quickly, even at the cost of dramatic escalation of the fighting; but their dilemma is no reason for the West to shirk its responsibility to support the *mujahidin* in their liberation struggle.

We draw your attention to the fact that West Germany intends to act by

VAT threat to quality of urban life

From Sir Terence Conran

Sir, The proposed imposition of VAT on refurbishment of buildings will, I believe, have a very deleterious effect on the quality of the environment of his country.

My company has worked with various developers in this last year, and has successfully restored an old maltings building, a fine example of a 1930s garage, two 19th century churches and, most recently, the Heals Building. All of these conversions were marginally viable in strict economic terms, but provide us with unusual and interesting stores which we and our customers like, and which also help to enliven architecturally the areas that they are in. Many of these projects would not have been possible if they had been 15 percent more expensive.

I am also personally involved in trying to put together a financially viable scheme for the redevelopment of Butlers Wharf, a twelve acre site in Docklands where the vast majority of the buildings are superb listed warehouses. VAT added to the cost is likely to turn this into an unprofitable venture.

This experience leads me to suspect that the Government has not properly considered the effects of VAT on their desire to accelerate the progress of inner city revitalisation. I'm sure it will be disastrous.

If VAT must be collected on building work then surely it would be wiser to levy a lesser amount on all construction of old and new buildings which would both then have to try and adjust to the market on equal terms.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE CONRAN,
Habitas/Mothercare plc,
The Heals Building,
196 Tottenham Court Road, W1.
April 23.

From the President of the British Property Federation
Sir, Your leader of April 25 ("A tax on reconstruction") exposes admirably the shortcomings of the arguments for extending VAT on building operations in the way proposed in the Finance Bill. Unfortunately your conclusion, for

that is why, in its submissions to the Government, the British Property Federation has recommended a limitation of the damage by excluding from VAT the substantial refurbishment or reconstruction of buildings which cannot or should not be demolished and by providing proper transitional arrangements with full zero-rating for building operations for which commitments had already been incurred by Budget day.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS MARLER, President,
British Property Federation,
35 Catherine Place, SW1.
April 26.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 29: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning attended Service at Little St Mary's Church, Kensington.

Her Royal Highness later attended a Reception held for members of the Church at Peterhouse.

The Lady Glenconner was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE:
ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 29: The Duchess of Kent today attended the Concerto finals of the 1984 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition which was held at Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Alan Henderson.

YORK HOUSE:
ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 29: The Duke of Kent, President of the Scout Association, this afternoon attended The Queen's Scouts Parade and Services at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE:
April 28: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at the 38th Reunion of the Burma Star Association at the Royal Albert Hall.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. Cumming-Bruce and Miss A. Garrow-St Lawrence

The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of the Hon Sir Rousley and Lady Sarah Cumming-Bruce, of Mulberry Walk, London, and Antoinette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ganson-St Lawrence, of Howth Castle, Dublin.

Mr R. W. Bettles and Miss J. L. Willcock

The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs P. R. Bettles, of Wellington, and Julie, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs C. B. Willcock, of Charlcombe, Bath.

Mr R. J. Bland and Miss P. M. R. M. Bonsey

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr J. P. R. Bland and Mrs J. A. Bland, of County Leicestershire, Shropshire, and Patricia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bonsey, of Upton Magna, Shropshire.

Mr R. P. Burrow and Miss A. M. Hill

The engagement is announced between Robert Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. F. Burrow, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey and Angela May, only daughter of Mr H. C. R. Hill and the late Mrs I. M. Hill, of Stoupe, Berkshire.

Mr D. I. Damreuther and Miss H. M. Clarke

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs I. A. Damreuther, of Chelsea, London and Heather, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Clarke, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr J. N. Davis and Miss P. J. Currie

The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr A. B. Davie and of Mrs J. Davie, of Muirend, Glasgow and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Currie, of Baldernoch, Glasgow.

Mr C. P. Gent and Miss E. A. Mackay

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs G. N. Gent, of Corstorphine, Turleigh, Wiltshire and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Mackay, of Tormarton, North Devon.

Mr D. Gerrans and Miss K. E. Dodswoth

The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of the Rev N. H. and Mrs Gerrans, of Cosham, Hampshire and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Dodsworth, of Beckenham, Kent.

Mr S. J. Jernard-Dunne and Miss N. S. Keats

The engagement is announced between Simon Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs J. Jernard-Dunne, of Beaconsfield Park, Poulton and Nina Suzanne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs L. W. Keats, of Cauford Cliffs, Poole.

Mr G. Maxwell-Hart and Miss F. E. Price

The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs M. Maxwell-Hart, of the Edge Wells, Kent and Frances Elizabeth, daughter of Dr Brian and Dr Meena Price, of Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

Princess Anne, President of the British Olympic Association, will be present at a fund raising dinner to be held by the Avon/Gloucester and Wiltshire Group at the Green Hotel, Hambrook, Avon on May 18.

The King of Sweden is 38 today.

Todays birthday of Princess Juliana of The Netherlands.

Requiem Mass

Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Rawlinson

Funeral requiem Mass for Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Richard Rawlinson was celebrated on Saturday at St Edward's, Sutton Park, Guildford, Surrey by Father John Stapleton.

The lessons were read by Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, son, and the Hon Michael Rawlinson, grandson. Mr Michael Denison gave an address.

Birthdays today

Dr G. E. Ayling, 58; Mr Dickie Davies, 51; Lord Diamond, 77;

Dame Isabel Graham Bryce, 82; Mr W. R. Henry, 69; Lord McIntosh of Harringay, 51; Dr L. Paul, 79; Lord Pearl, 70; Lord Somers, 68; Sir John Turnbull, 79; Mr Peter Willes, 71.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Barry P. Laight to be Secretary of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

The parliamentary notices have been held over

Churchgoing continues to be the most common organized voluntary activity in the nation by a large margin, which is another way of presenting the fact that "only" about 15 per cent of the population attends church each week.

It is a habit laid down in childhood and adolescence, which is why the churches will feel thoroughly frightened by the evidence of a survey of teenage attitudes to religion conducted for the British Council of Churches.

The group surveyed were churchgoing teenagers, the one constituency the churches must not alienate if they are to stay in business. Rather than half those who attend church at the age of 13 will have stopped by the time they are 20, the survey discovered.

Some - the survey throws no light on this - are likely to resume churchgoing from the age of 35, judging from the age profile of most church going congregations. In this the teenage experience of church and the reasons for turning away from it, are likely to be crucial.

Dr Leslie Francis, who conducted the survey (*Teenagers and the Church*, Collins £7.95, published today), makes a curious pre-judgement throughout his commentary on it, one no doubt unconsciously shared by the youth unit of the British Council of Churches, which sponsored it.

It is roughly true that a serious inquirer who knocks on the door of the local minister is likely to find himself warmly welcomed in, on his knees within an hour, and signed up that day, one who knocks on the local presbytery door may be rather coldly told to come back

by a variety of techniques and devices by the adults in the congregation adopting a "welcoming" attitude, by clergymen being "approachable", by encouraging "friendliness" among young churchgoers themselves, by allowing "participation" in services and other church activities.

By implication, religion must be made "relevant" and sermons must be "helpful" to young people; the services should give an impression of "life". (Those are Dr Francis's key words.)

The evidence collected by the survey itself indicates that the Free Churches are by far the best in these respects, and the Roman Catholic Church the worst. Yet the evidence also shows quite unmistakably that the Free Churches have the fewest teenagers, the Roman Catholic Church the most, and the most committed.

The Roman Catholic attitude to teenagers is distinctly "take it or leave it", and eschews the manipulative methods regarded as self-evidently necessary in the Free Churches. It is at least possible that that is what appeals to teenagers about the Roman Catholic Church, and earns their respect.

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in three weeks, then to be offered a daunting six months course of instruction "if you really mean it".

The two approaches parallel the two churches' attitude to teenagers in the congregation: one communicates a kind of insecurity, the other self-confidence.

This touches on the issue of authority. Strength of faith in the various doctrines of Christianity is likely to depend on confidence in the source from which the doctrine is received.

This is well illustrated in the survey by Roman Catholic teenagers' significant rejection of their church's teaching on birth control. The conviction that "the church knows what it is talking about" on sexual matters is lacking. This is in sharp contrast to the obvious confidence these teenagers have in the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on abortion, or on matters of faith.

The Free Churches rely far more on "socialization" than on this innate sense of authority. Free Church teenagers, such as those are, seem to be expected to make the church part of their social life, draw their circle of friends from it, and develop close relationships with adult lay church members.

If Anglicanism's basic appeal is to those above a certain level of maturity, and if this explains the lack of attraction it holds for teenagers, it is not necessarily something of which the Church of England need feel ashamed.

That is how the ethos of Nonconformity is communicated from one generation to the next. The most telling statistic in this respect is Dr Francis's discovery that Free Church teenagers who maintain

Fauvre and Mrs Mary Johnson (right) took part in the service.

The bride, who was given in marriage by Colonel David Gordon Lennox, brother-in-law, was attended by Kirsty, Lora and Hannah Noel-Paton and Eleanor Price. Mr John Inge was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr T. D. Briggs and Miss M. M. LeB. Larkey

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Loders, Dorset, of Mr Thomas David Briggs, elder son of Mr and Mrs Thomas David Briggs, of The Dene, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, and Miss Michelle Larkey, eldest daughter of Sir Denis and Lady Larkey, of Loders Mill, Bridport, Dorset. The Right Rev G. L. Tawks and the Rev Alex Martin officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Harry and Katie Bunbury, Charlotte Brodie, Miss Miranda Tulloch and Miss Lucy Penrose. Mr Jonathan Harington was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R. C. Knight Bruce and Miss C. M. B. Finlay

The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Brompton, between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Bruce and Karen, daughter of Captain Stephen Harwood, RN, and Mrs Stephen Harwood, of St Catherine's Cottage, Catherington, near Portsmouth.

Mr S. E. J. Osborne, B.N. and Miss L. C. Smith

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Dr and Mrs F. Osborn, of Caversham, Berkshire, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs V. J. Smith, of Caversham, Berkshire.

Mr J. Roe

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Dr and Mrs Francis Roe, of Wimbledon and Liza, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Higham of Styall, Cheshire.

Mr M. T. Rose and Miss G. H. Benson

The engagement is announced between Martin, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Rose, of Hampstead and Georgina, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Benson, of Littlebury Green, Saffron Walden.

Mr G. M. Tweedie and Miss K. A. Lane

The engagement is announced between Gary, son of Mrs Carol Tweedie, of Hastings, New Zealand, and Karen, granddaughter of Mr and Mrs Ken Hanby, of Frankston, Australia.

Mr T. A. Dunn and Miss J. M. D. Parsons

The engagement is announced between Thomas Astley, elder son of the late Mr A. T. Dunn and Mrs Dunn, of Overbury Hall, Layham, Ipswich, Suffolk and Jane, twin daughter of Mr J. G. D. Parson, of Duras, France, and Mrs P. F. de Moulopied, of Ullswater, Cumbria.

Mr A. G. T. Sanders and Miss A. M. R. Cusinier

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Etienne-du-Mont, Place du Pantheon, Paris, of Mr Alasdair Sanders, son of Sir Robert and Lady Sanders of Crief, Perthshire, and Miss Annie Cusinier and Miss Emily Cusinier, of Paris. Father Valentine officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her mother, was attended by William, Luke, Thomas and Peterhouse. A reception was held afterwards by the vicar and curate to the Master and fellows of Peterhouse. Among others present were the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and Lady Butterfield, the Bishop of Ely and Mrs Walker and RAOC in-pensioners of the Royal Hospital.

No 619 Squadron RAF

The annual reunion dinner of No 619 Squadron RAF was held at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, on Saturday. Flight Lieutenant D. J. Coombes presided and Squadron Leader L. G. W. Berry proposed the toast of the squadron. Air Commander Charles H. Clarke was among those attending.

Mr R. Birch and Miss C. Tritton

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28 at the Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Elizabeth, Coughton, Warwickshire, between Mr Rupert Birch, son of the Late Mr Lionel Birch and of Mrs Venetia Murray, and Miss Christina Tritton, daughter of Mr Alan Tritton and of Mrs Andrew McLaren, the Bishop of Brentwood officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mr and Mrs J. M. Holz and Mr and Mrs J. M. Holz, best man.

A reception was held at the Orange, Holland Park and the honeymoon will be spent by the bride and groom.

Mr and Mrs A. M. Hill

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28 at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, between Mr and Mrs A. M. Hill, of Beaconsfield, and Mrs and Mrs A. M. Hill, of Beaconsfield.

A reception was held at the Orange, Holland Park and the honeymoon will be spent by the bride and groom.

Mr and Mrs J. M. Holz

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28 at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, between Mr and Mrs J. M. Holz, of Beaconsfield, and Mrs and Mrs J. M. Holz, of Beaconsfield.

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Mr and Mrs J. M. Holz

The

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

And for my next half decade . . .

Anniversary celebrations are inevitably selective. One could hardly expect Mrs Thatcher, in reminding us that inflation had been brought lower than for 16 years, to acknowledge that the unemployment rate is higher than for half a century. Nor, in proclaiming the British economy to be the envy of "many nations", to note that one of the six heads of government due to visit her for the London economic summit presides over a worse dole queue than Britain's.

Yet a snapshot of the British economy at the end of last year did not look too bad in the international album. We had the fastest growth rate among the major Europeans, combined with a below-average inflation rate. Unemployment appeared to have levelled off; employment, it is now estimated, had risen 200,000 since the spring.

What happened then is more questionable. Examining month-by-month figures is never a very profitable business, especially those months most confused by national holidays and weather. But it is important for trying to settle a sudden squall of argument that has blown up over Mr Nigel Lawson's fiscal and monetary stance.

There is an old saw, much quoted by Sir Geoffrey Howe's supporters in 1981, that unpopular Budgets get the best verdicts from history. On this topsy-turvy measure, Mr Lawson would have by now, a certain amount to worry about.

His first and popular Budget was not, of course, of the old give-away kind that brought Nemesis to former much-applauded Chancellors. Indeed, now it is safely launched, the Treasury is increasingly frank in admitting its surprise that the Budget received such a good all-round reception, particularly from industry.

It was undoubtedly a very clever Budget. In give-and-take, the quickness of the hand must deceive the eye. Just one or two elements missing from the package — most importantly, if there had been no further cut in the national insurance surcharge — and the CBI would have quickly found its tongue; reaction might have rumbled the other way. The Budget was also clever in its macroeconomic figuring, so that suspicious City took time to work out that it was mildly and subtly expansionary; that, set against the background of the Chancellor's longer-term plans, there had indeed been a change of direction. Now the money numbers are beginning to rise, and there is a ripple of unease in the markets, to the sound of I-told-you-so from the purists.

Yet the trickle of economic statistics since the Budget has made it clear than a bit of a push was needed. Even after allowing for imperfect seasonal adjustment after Christmas, there was plainly some slowdown from the growth with which we ended 1983. Unemployment began rising sharply again. Industrial production dipped in February. Consumer spending for the whole first quarter dropped back to the levels recorded last summer.

Now all these can be argued smoothly away. Too much of the recent recovery has been consumer-led, a pressure that has only found out our weakness against foreign competition. A check in consumer spending might be a welcome sign of a redirection of national effort into savings and investment. Industrial production may have been only a blip in admittedly imperfect statistics; taking a run of months, the trend was still clearly upwards.

Unemployment steadied this month though it is a measure of our conditioned pessimism that we were relieved to see a seasonally-adjusted total of more than three million fall by a mere 500, after three years of economic recovery. And early

indications are that retail sales picked up. The stock market hit new heights in March, staggered and then reached new records last week.

But none of this suggests an economy in imminent danger of overheating. It suggests there was some risk, before the Budget, of another pause in the recovery, of the kind suffered in 1981. The comparison is particularly relevant, because the blow inflicted in 1981 was a 4 per cent hike in interest rates.

A sharp rise in interest rates now, and industry will destock, not restock, this summer. It is not necessary for history to repeat itself in this way. A well-knit argument published today by Mr Roger Bootle of Capel Cure Myers, presents the case for longer-term confidence about the monetary trends. Bear with a brief, and non-technical, summary. Even if the Government "overfunds" (that is, sells more debt than it needs to cover the public sector's deficit) by a billion pounds in 1984-85, it will still need two billion less than it did last year, which should be acceptable to the markets. This assumes, critically, that the Government does not overspend; but so far, and provided the miners' strike does not ruin the nationalised industries, the expenditure figures look good. Then, even if bank lending rises by a billion more than last year — and again, with fingers crossed, there are good reasons to expect nothing worse — probable developments in other elements of sterling M3 should allow the Government to hit the top end of its 6 per cent to 10 per cent target.

Of course, the Chancellor's new strategy is blessed with more targets than for sterling M3. His widest, PSL2, has been growing at an awful annual rate of over 16 per cent these past three months. But his narrowest, little Mo, has been trotting along at only 4½ per cent and that is arguably the best gauge for interest-rate policy.

But are there signs of trouble elsewhere in the economy? Clearly, there are beginning to be specialized labour shortages, as was inevitable very early on in such a dramatic industrial shake-up. But it would be monstrous, with 12.6 per cent unemployment, to translate that into generalized labour market pressure. Admittedly, wage settlements are far too high, but this is not because they have surged up with the past year of growth; it is simply that they have failed to slow down with prices, even while unemployment doubled.

The Government's answer to this should-not-be to choke off recovery, but to press ahead with its avowed determination to "make the labour market work". Mr Thatcher's bitterest anniversary reflection must be the Government's failure to create a wage and employment policy in its own image. Having rejected formal incomes policy, it has never properly developed its own alternative. Finding some way out of this dilemma must be high on the Prime Minister's list for the next four or five, or how ever many years. In the meantime, there is still more cause to hope than to panic about the course of 1984.

Output per employee still seems to be rising fast. This suggests many firms can expand farther and faster than expected, without running into labour bottlenecks. It means it would be unwise to discount the Chancellor's forecast of a drop in inflation to 4½ per cent this autumn. It also reinforces the need to aim for growth — if unemployment is not to rise still further. In this peculiar recovery, productivity is the key pressure gauge to watch.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Backing for Budget 'trade-off'

The Chancellor's Budget trade-off in withdrawing capital allowances while reducing Corporation Tax found favour with 83 per cent of those polled in an early-April business opinion survey conducted for the Institute Directors.

Almost half those in the survey felt the budget had made little difference to the overall position of their companies, with a further 40 per cent perceiving some benefit.

Two thirds of the businessmen were more optimistic about corporate prospects than they were six months before. About 90 per cent were either more optimistic, or at least as optimistic, compared with six months before about prospects generally for the economy.

• BANCO NATIONALE del LAVORO, Italy's biggest bank which is controlled by the state, plans to raise Lira 300 billion (\$130m) through a share offer to the public by the end of this year. At present 86 per cent of the bank's Lira 500 billion capital is held by the Treasury Ministry, with the rest divided between public bodies and institutions. The privatization offer, probably in the form of preference non-voting shares, will raise the capital to Lira 800 billion (\$344m).

• COLOMBIA IS seeking \$1 bn in credits from the United States and the World Bank to finance industrial development, agricultural diversification and exports.

Isle of Man likely to cut UK customs link

By Jonathan Clare

The Isle of Man is likely to break its 90-year-old customs link with the British mainland sometime during the next 10 years.

Dr Edgar Mann, chairman of the Finance Board, said he believed the severance of the link "was highly desirable".

The customs and excise arrangements with the mainland mean that the island's VAT rate is

Value Added Tax rate is automatically tied to Britain's by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Political opinion on the island has shifted towards breaking the link, which is unlikely to happen until manufacturing interests are swayed over. Manufacturers would like the island to control its own VAT rate.

AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

Exit, pursued by a bear

Since the beginning of 1984 there has been a powerful bear market in bonds. That bearish pressure has knocked prices of other financial assets, including stocks and commodity futures.

The question that has now been raised is whether the bear market in bonds has demoralized all the markets sufficiently to have knocked the entire recovery on the head.

As the economic information relating to March has become available, it has not been hard to argue that even if it has not been killed, the recovery is stumbling under a spreading number of wounds. Retail sales fell sharply in March, housing starts dropped, industrial production hardly rose at all, initial claims for unemployment insurance yo-yo-ed around a static average, and inventories rose sharply in the first quarter revised real GNP numbers, indicating that the second

quarter GNP figures may show a tiny increase, if any at all.

The Federal Reserve is continuing to pour on the liquidity, as indicated by the fact that the "adjusted monetary base" (banks' reserves plus currency) is still rising at more than 10 per cent a year, but the money supply is not rising at anything like that rate since the middle of 1983 money M1 has risen at only 6 per cent a year.

The commodities markets have given a thumbs down to the recovery in the last two or three months. Copper seemed to be going well for a time, but in the last week copper futures have dropped nearly 10 per cent. Lumber futures have taken a sickening dive, falling by more than 20 per cent in four weeks. Treasury bonds have fallen very sharply. All commodities futures are back to their December levels, abandoning all of the 1984 gains.

Target Life likely to be sold to institutions in £50m shake-up

By Jeremy Warner

Morgan Grenfell is planning to place conditionally most of the issued share capital of Target Life with a range of City institutions at a price which will value the fast-growing assurance and unit trust group at more than £50m.

Details of the deal, which will allow both the life company's existing shareholders, Charterhouse J Rothschild and Mr Saul Steinberg's US based Reliance insurance group to realize their investments, are expected to be announced this week.

Morgan Grenfell will end up the largest shareholder and the present management, led by Mr David Montagu and Mr John Stone, will be left with a 10 per cent holding and options on a further 5 per cent.

The rest of the shares will be placed with up to 30 of the City's leading financial insti-

tutions. Morgan Grenfell intends to stick to the management's previous plan of achieving a full stock market listing for Target within the next three years.

The change of ownership at Target has become necessary because of the planned £1 billion merger between Charterhouse J Rothschild and Mr Mark Weinberg's Hambo Life, a direct competitor of Target in unit-linked life assurance.

The merger would almost certainly be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if Target were kept within the Charterhouse J Rothschild stable.

Morgan Grenfell has provided a new solution to the problem of divestment by combining Target management's desire for independence and an eventual stock market quote with the

back-up of a powerful merchant bank as the leading minority shareholder.

The bank recently announced the acquisition for an undisclosed sum of a 29.9 per cent stake in Pinchin Denny, one of the leading London stock jobbing firms. Its emergence as a big minority shareholder in Target will add to the impression that it is attempting to mirror the development of other city groupings into a financial supermarket.

Morgan Grenfell has been notably absent among the big City merchant banks from participation in the rapidly growing life assurance business and unlike most of its competitors, it has no stable of unit trust groups.

A surprising aspect of the deal is Mr Steinberg's decision

to divest himself of his 40 per cent shareholding since he does not need to.

Mr Steinberg,

the entrepreneurial Wall Street financier, has announced plans in the United States to increase to 25 per cent his stake in Walt Disney Productions.

Target's new annual life and pensions premiums rose 7.1 per cent to £15.6m last year and new single premiums were nearly 200 per cent higher at £35.5m. Unit trust sales grew by even more to £65m.

Last year Target had an average growth of 34.7 per cent in its equity funds, the third best result among the 25 biggest unit trust groups.

The total value of all unit trusts is now well in excess of £13 billion. In March there were record sales amounting to £328m.

Hongkong merger

The diversified Hongkong trading company Swire Pacific is to buy the 27.5 per cent of Swire Properties it does not already own, in a deal worth HK\$1.35 billion (\$123m) that is seen as a vote of confidence in the business future of the colony.

It is the first sizable merger involving blue chip companies since February and is likely to give a fillip to a stock market in the fold.

Jardine, Matheson, the colony's oldest company, shook the business community with its announcement last month that it was to move its legal domicile to Bermuda due to uncertainty over the colony's future.

There was more depressing news on Good Friday when the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, told Hongkong officially that British Administration would end and communist China would gain sovereignty in 1997.

STOCK EXCHANGES

(Change on week)

FT-SE 100 Index:	29.8
FT Index: 908.0 up 28.0	
FT GIfts: 81.9 up 0.3	
Bargain: 21.07 up 0.07	
Midstream USM Leaders Index: 114 up 0.33	
New York Dow Jones Average: 1169.07 up 15.8	
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,981.88 up 15.8	
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1,054.30 down 19.64	

BOARD MEETINGS

MONDAY	- Interims: Atlanta Investment Trust, Bellway, Windsor Bond Fund, British Investment Trust, Fosaco Minsep, Groveland Group, Hammerton Property Investment, Kwik-Fit (Tyres and Exhausts), P and W Macallan, John Menzies, Marlborough Property Holdings, Pentland Industries, Roper, Singapore Park Rubber Estates, United Friendly Insurance.
TUESDAY	- Interims: J Hepworth and Son, C H Pearce and Sons, Satchells and Satchell Co, Safeguard Industrial Investments, Finales, Arbuton Ltd, Yen Bond Fund, British Investment Trust, Fosaco Minsep, Groveland Group, Hammerton Property Investment, Kwik-Fit (Tyres and Exhausts), P and W Macallan, John Menzies, Marlborough Property Holdings, Pentland Industries, Roper, Singapore Park Rubber Estates, United Friendly Insurance.
WEDNESDAY	- Interims: Dubliner, Tige Oats and National Milling, Finales, Aberdeen Construction, Ascaso Jewellery, John Fosses Heifer, Matthew Hill, Lassell, Rynders, Gillett, John Laing, FJC Lilleys, Millets Leisure Shops, Petrocan Group, Pochin's, Shiloh, J. O. Walker, York Mount Group.
THURSDAY	- Interims: Barton Transport, S. Lykes, Save and Prosper Linked Investment Trust, S. Simpson, Wernys Investment Trust, Finales: Computer and Systems Engineering, Fleming Far Eastern Investment Trust, Highcroft Investment Trust, Scott and Robertson.
FRIDAY	- Interims: Swindon Private Hospital, Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration, Finales: Air Cell, Bestwood, Percy Bilton, Liberty, Lilleshall, Midland Marts, Miles 33, Tootal Group.

Filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission in New York at the end of last week confirmed that Rolls-Royce was subscribing \$2.5m in equity for the new airline, representing about 6 per cent of the share capital. It is also providing up to \$40m of finance to help Jet Express buy four second hand Boeing 727 jets.

Ironically the four jets are powered by engines manufactured by Rolls-Royce's competitor, Pratt and Whitney. In return for Rolls-Royce's financial assistance, however, Jet Express has promised to buy two new Boeing 757 aircraft powered by Rolls-Royce RB 211-535 engines.

The aircraft will be delivered in 1986, and Rolls-Royce expects to benefit from further orders if and when the new airline begins to expand. Its operations initially will be confined to flights between Chicago and New York and Los Angeles.

Stock allocated to him, subject in each case to payment of his cheque, but such notification will confer no right on the tenderer to transfer the Stock to a third party.

In the event of the tenderer failing to make payment of the amount due, the Stock will be returned to the Bank of England. Payment in full may be made at any time after the date of issue of the Stock, or earlier if the tenderer so desires.

Interest on the Stock will be paid quarterly at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven days in respect of £100 ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum. Such interest will be payable by the tenderer to the Bank of England on the due date for the relevant payment, or by return of the letter of acceptance.

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the balance of purchase money is paid, unless payment in full has been made to the Bank of England.

Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England. New issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or any of the branches of the Bank of England or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England (25 Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EE) not later than 3.30 PM on TUESDAY, 1ST MAY 1984. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the amount of the allotment.

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the balance of purchase money is paid, unless payment in full has been made to the Bank of England.

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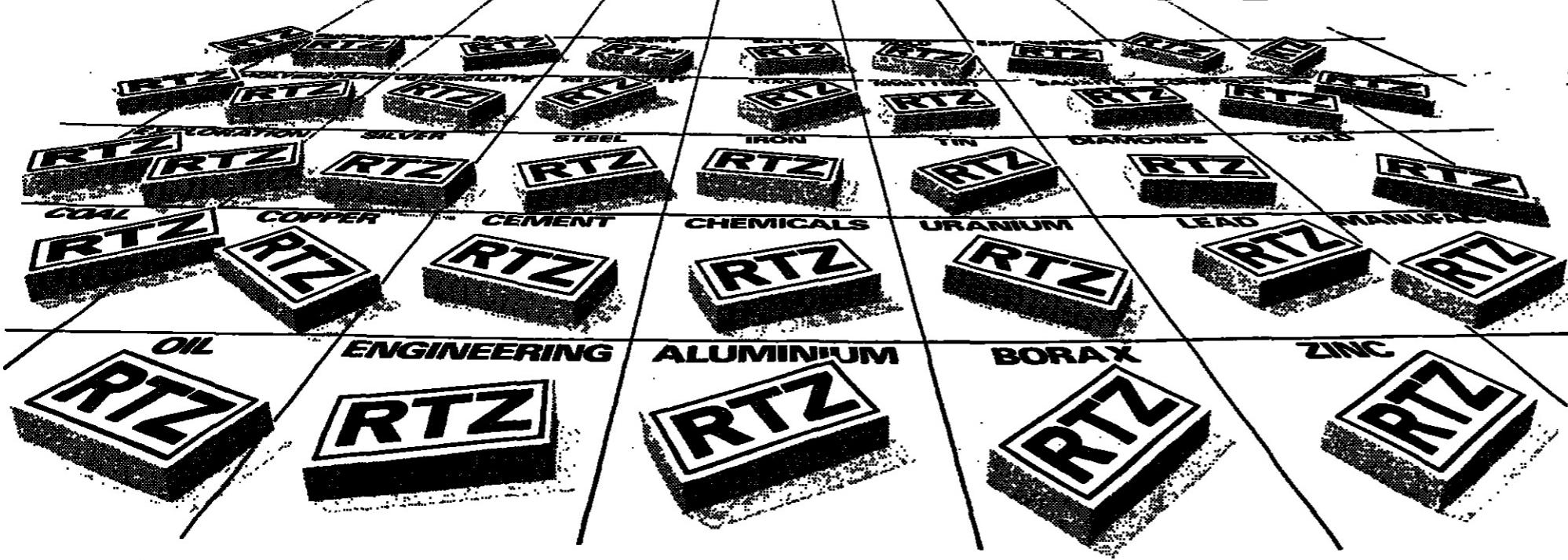
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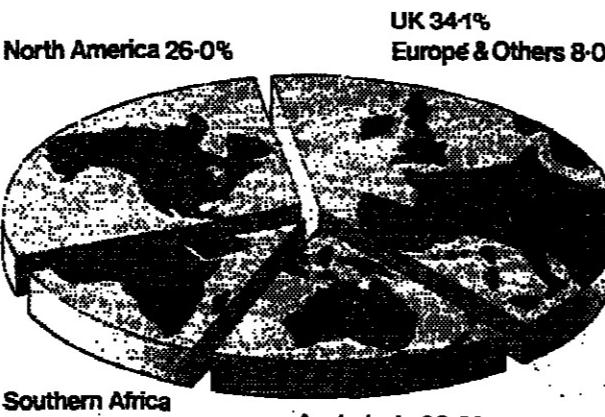


RTZ activities originally concentrated almost exclusively on mining and more recently have been broadened and diversified. Many of the Group's low-cost mines have by-products which contribute substantially to their overall profitability. Group companies now operate throughout the world in a wide spread of industries related to natural resources. These include metal processing and fabrication, engineering, the production and sale of chemicals and of construction materials and developing energy interests. Because of diversification and persistently weak base metal markets, the relative importance of RTZ's industrial interests in recent years has grown in relation to mining.

Highlights from the Accounts	
1983	1982
Group sales revenue	£4,811.0m £3,680.4m
Operating profit	623.5m 403.3m
Profit before tax	575.2m 341.0m
Profit after tax	296.3m 173.1m
Net attributable profit	172.5m 103.5m
Earnings per ord. share	59.31p *38.44p
Dividends per ord. share	
Interim - paid	6.0p 5.5p
Final - proposed	12.0p 10.5p

*Adjusted for rights issue

Geographical source of profit by %



Results

Our results this year show a satisfactory increase over 1981 and 1982, two of the most difficult years the mining industry has had to face since before the war.

RTZ's profitability depends significantly on metal prices. In some cases prices were even lower in 1983 than in 1982, and so the improvement in our results is all the more welcome. It stems partly from our broad geographical and industrial spread, and partly from the rigorous attention to costs throughout the Group.

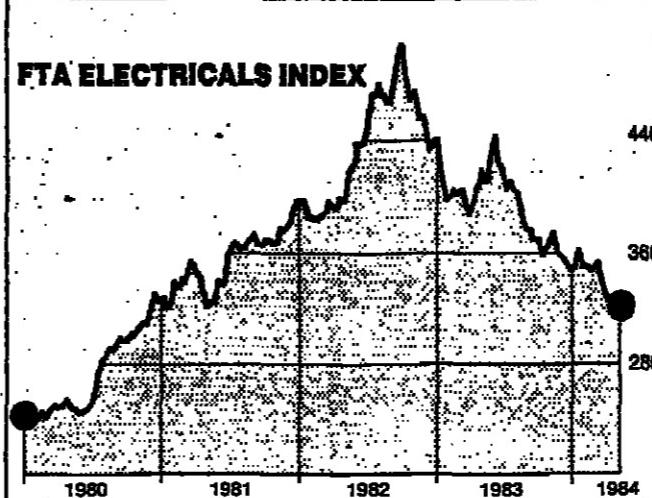
Group companies now produce significant percentages of the Western World's bauxite, copper, iron ore, lead, tin, uranium and zinc, and lesser quantities, mainly as by-products, of gold, molybdenum and silver. Our mines are, for the most part, low-cost producers and can therefore show reasonable profits even when other mines are working at a loss. This is especially true in the case of copper, with Pababora to the fore as one of the most efficient and low-cost producers in the world.

These mining activities are supplemented by a broad industrial base, mainly in the UK and North America, in cement and other construction materials, in metal fabricating and light engineering and in borax and its derivatives. Our interests in oil and gas are also expanding, and we hope to see further growth in this area during the next few years.

Outlook
What of 1984? Forecasts of metal prices are notoriously difficult, but, provided the economies of the OECD countries continue on their present course, the increased level of activity will benefit most parts of the Group and, considering the difficult conditions still being faced by the mining industry, the current year should be satisfactory. It would, however, be prudent to sound a note of caution because of uncertainties about the year's exchange rates. The impact of exchange rate movements on our business is highly complex as the many currencies involved often move in different directions and sometimes metal prices move in the opposite direction to exchange rates. If the US dollar continues to weaken, our reported profits could be adversely affected.

ORDINARY SHARES

Bill Bracey



A portfolio of electrical shares, weighted by market capitalization in the same way as the FTA Electricals Index, would have been a disastrous investment over the past 18 months. As a measure of this, an alternative portfolio of shares widely spread across the whole equity market, has been worth 50 per cent more at the end of this period. How is it that a sector of the market which supposedly offers good long term growth can perform so badly at a time when British economy is showing a strong recovery?

The electrical and electronics industries (like other sectors of the economy), consist of a few very large companies and a very long "tail" of many small companies. Of the 40 or so companies researched by the Savory Millen "Electricals and Electronics" specialization, the five largest (GEC, Plessey, Racal, STC and Ferranti) account for 70 per cent of the total market capitalization.

An index weighted by market capitalization is, therefore dominated by these large companies and the share price

months are illustrated in the table.

During the summer 1982 the electrical leaders were publishing results showing good earnings growth against a depressed general economic background. Sentiment towards the sector was favourable; in the aftermath of the Falklands crisis there was optimism on the rate of arms expenditure increase while early discussions on the privatization of British Telecom suggested that telecommunications spending would rise more quickly if the corporation had access to the capital markets.

Each of these factors has changed over the past 18 months. At the same time, as the general economy has been recovering, the aggregate earnings growth of electrical and electronics leaders has declined. Sentiment has deteriorated considerably. Not only was there no Falklands bonanza for

Although these general points go a certain way to explaining the recent weakness of the sector, the leading companies are far from being a homogeneous group. There have been specific problems which are of most relevance when answering the question "when, if any, of these shares should I be buying now?"

GEC will announce in early July its final results for the year which ended on March 31.

British Telecom, too, is threatening to disrupt the old, cosy relationship with its suppliers by second-sourcing from overseas. At the same time, are worries that institutions may take money out of the electrical and electronics sector to subscribe for British Telecom shares this autumn.

While we feel that GEC's downward re-rating to an average market multiple is now complete, we do not expect any sharp recovery. From here, the shares are expected to move in line with the equity market as a whole and this is clearly unexciting.

These will show broadly unchanged profits on a year earlier with weakness in the telecommunications and power generation divisions and a sharp drop in the return on cash combining to offset progress elsewhere.

Next year we would expect a resumption of profits growth but not such as to distinguish GEC from the market as a whole.

Earnings growth in the immediate future will, therefore, be dull and we see no reason, either, why GEC should enjoy an above average price/earnings multiple. The company may well have a strategy for turning its large cash balances into future profits growth but, if so, it is not understood by the City. The investment in Distillers Company hardly sheds much light on the matter.

While we feel that GEC's downward re-rating to an average market multiple is now complete, we do not expect any sharp recovery. From here, the shares are expected to move in line with the equity market as a whole and this is clearly unexciting.

V.G. Instruments is still a cheap stock. Its core technology has been extended into new areas such as molecular beam epitaxy and the company's prospects as a supplier to chip manufacturers around the world are exciting.

Microlease makes its money from the short-term hire of electronic test equipment. The increasing pervasiveness of electronics provides a good background for its activities and the shares look cheap.

Finally, we consider that the excitement in the electronic component distribution sub-sector is far from over and like Diploma and United.

The author is a partner in Savory Millen "Electricals and Electronics Specialization".

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8.5%
Barclays	8.5%
BCCL	8.5%
Chuban Savings	9.5%
Consolidated Crds	8.5%
Continental Trust	8.5%
C. House & Co	8.5%
Lloyds Bank	8.5%
Mitran Bank	8.5%
Nat Westminster	8.5%
TSB	8.5%
Williams & Glynn	8.5%

+ Mortgage Base Rate.
* Term deposits on sums of under £10,000. 8.5% £10,000 up to £30,000. 8.4% £30,000 and over. 7.5%.

NESTLÉ S.A.,

Cham and Vevey (Switzerland)

The shareholders are hereby convened to the 11TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING to be held on Thursday, May 17, 1984 at 3.00 p.m. at the "Palais de Beaulieu" LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND)

AGENDA

- Approval of the Accounts for 1983 and of the Annual Report.
- Decisions from the responsibility of the Board of Directors and of the Management.
- Decision regarding the appropriation of the net profit.
- Elections in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- Amendment of Articles 5, par. 2; 6, par. 8; 7 and 27 of the Articles of Association.
- Basic for the creation of a participation-capital
 - Stamp duty basis: introduction of a new Article 7 and amendment of Article 8 of the Articles of Association
 - Authorization to the Board of Directors to issue participation certificates up to 10% of the share capital
- Increase of share capital
 - Increase of the share capital from present Fr 285,000,000.- to Fr 300,000,000.- by the issue of 50,958 new bearer shares and of 91,548 new registered shares reserved for the shareholders.
 - Increase of the new share capital from Fr 299,340,000.- to Fr 300,000,000.- by the issue of 2,095 new bearer shares and of 4,497 new registered shares reserved for the "Fonds de Pensions Nestlé".
 - Registration on record that all the new bearer shares and registered shares are transferable for fully paid.
 - Increase of the new share capital from Fr 300,000,000.- to Fr 330,000,000.- by the issue of 300,000 new registered shares in order to guarantee conversion or option rights resulting from debentures or bonds which might be issued later on and for other purposes in the interest of the Company, subject to the decision of the Board of Directors; the present shareholders waiving their subscription rights.
 - Placing on record that all the new registered shares have been subscribed for and fully paid.
 - Amendment of Article 5 of the Articles of Association.
 - Registration in the "Registre du Commerce".

The owners of bearer shares may obtain their admission cards for the General Meeting (with a proxy) at the Company's Share Control Office at Cham up to Monday, May 14, 1984 at noon, at the latest. The cards will be delivered against the statement of a bank that the shares have been deposited with the Company and the names of the shareholders where they will remain blocked until the day after the General Meeting.

The Nestlé Annual Report 1983 with the Directors' Report of Nestlé S.A. (including the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account with comments, the Auditors' Report and the proposals for the appropriation of profit) as well as the Report of the Board of Directors concerning the amendments to the Articles of Association, the possibility of introducing participation certificates and the proposed share capital increases, are available to the holders of bearer shares as from May 2, 1984 at the Registered Offices at Cham and Vevey and at the Office of the paying agents of the Company.

The holders of registered shares who have not received the admission cards in time may obtain them in the Share Register with, within the next few days, receive at their latest address communicated to the Company, an envelope containing the Notice for the General Meeting, together with a form including an application for obtaining the admission card for such meeting as well as a proxy. On the other hand, the above-mentioned Reports will be dispatched a few days later.

According to the terms of Article 15 of the Articles of Association, the resolutions relating to point No 6 of the Agenda can only be valid taken by a quorum of three-quarters of the votes cast without regard to the number of shares represented at the second General Meeting. The admission cards and the proxies for the Ordinary General Meeting shall be automatically valid for the Extraordinary General Meeting.

The shareholders are requested to address any correspondence concerning the General Meeting to the Share Control Office of the Company at Cham (Switzerland).
will be held on Thursday, May 17, 1984 at the "Palais de Beaulieu", Lausanne, immediately after the end of the Ordinary General Meeting, in order to decide on points 6.1 and 6.2 of the Agenda. In accordance with Article 15, points 6.1 and 6.2 of the Articles of Association, decisions will be valid taken by a quorum of three-quarters of the votes cast without regard to the number of shares represented at the second General Meeting. The admission cards and the proxies for the Ordinary General Meeting shall be automatically valid for the Extraordinary General Meeting.

The Board of Directors



The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation PLC

If you would like a copy of the RTZ annual report including Sir Anthony's full statement please write to: Central Registration Limited, 1 Redcliff Street, Bristol BS1 6NT

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

The domestic reasons for an end to stability

Michael Hughes

Gilt prices are virtually unchanged on those of a year ago, in contrast to the equity market where gains of 25 per cent or more are commonplace. The relative stability of the gilt market has been particularly noticeable over the last few weeks. The FT government securities index has remained in a two-point spread for nearly 10 weeks. There are signs, however, that this stability is about to break.

Tempting though it may be to draw analogies with the response to the industrial disputes of 1974, the contrast are sufficiently great for this not to be a fruitful avenue for analysis. Suffice it to say that the miners' dispute contributes to a deterioration in sentiment which has its roots elsewhere. Our analysis focuses on three concerning developments in the wider economic scene. These are conveniently summarized by three statistics - the 10 per cent long-term interest rate barrier, the current 5 per cent inflation rate and the 80 level for sterling's trade-weighted exchange rate.

Despite a greater than generally expected reduction in inflation, gilt-edged yields have not convincingly broken through 10 per cent. Now the relationship between interest rates and inflation does not lend itself to simple explanations. In

'Acceleration of PSL 2 cannot be ignored'

particular, it does not appear to be consistent over time. The last two years have not been a period, for example, in which a rise in real interest rates, brought about by inflation falling by more than expected, has produced a reduction in real economic growth. In fact, quite the reverse has happened. The choice of 10 per cent is not arbitrary as de Zoete and Bevan's first contribution to this series back in January explained. There are now signs, however, that this barrier is strengthening. This belief dates back to the Budget.

Although hailed as a personal triumph for the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, it did not match up to the expectations of those who had been looking for a very tough anti-inflation line. In particular, the reductions in the desired PSBR trend and the associated monetary base targets fell short of the conditions necessary to ensure inflation stays below 5 per cent. The Budget emphasis was on tax reform, not monetary strin-

gency. The implications of this change took time to digest. In contrast to previous years, second thoughts on the Budget were not formulated two, three or even four days after rather two, three and four weeks.

The conclusion that fiscalism had replaced monetarism as the prime policy focus has contributed to a feeling that any monetary excesses will be slower to come through than they did in the first term of office. The consequence is that the average inflation rate is expected to be higher than would otherwise have been the case.

Subsequent to the Budget came the money supply figures for March, which suggested that money demand was accelerating. The treatment of these figures by the financial press was remarkably uncharitable. Little attention was paid to the explosive growth in M1 or the continuing acceleration of PSL2. Both are now discarded as targeted variables but that does not diminish their importance for economic analysis. Some may even argue that it enhances it!

But whereas the March M1 evidence may be set aside as a temporary deviation of an increasingly unreliable series, the PSL2 acceleration over recent months cannot be ignored.

A reasonable case had been made for substituting M1 with more meaningful measures of narrow money. No such case was made in the Budget or subsequently for dropping PSL2. Its acceptance by the gilt-edged market as a reasonable measure of broad money is undimmed.

Despite its lower profile in the newly-designed Medium Term Financial Strategy, the attention devoted to PSL2 may well rise over the coming months as it continues to

edged below 80 on its trade-weighted index. The choice of 80 is not especially important. There is after all no official target for the exchange rate so no one level is all-important.

In contrast to the fiscal year 1981-82, when a range of 88-92

became established as the acceptable band, no such limits can now be identified. And yet the steady correction to sterling's overvaluation of three years ago brings us neatly to the current trading range.

Now, however, sterling is no longer overvalued. In fact, according to the London Business School's latest assessment of price competitiveness, sterling is slightly undervalued. Moreover, non-price factors do not still seem to be making sterling goods unattractive.

One of the remarkable features of recent years is that despite sterling's well publicized overvaluation in price terms, our share of world markets has far higher than the economic models predicted. There appears to have been a break with past trends indicative of some non-price-related (perhaps supply-side) improvement.

Sterling is, therefore, fairly valued. If anything, it might be slightly cheap. In the absence of any external shocks, a sustained devaluation of sterling from around current levels would therefore provide a warning that some other aspect of the domestic scene was deteriorating.

The most likely candidate is domestic monetary policy. If this has been overrelaxed at a time when sterling goods and

A sustained devaluation would be a warning

services are fairly priced on world markets, the consequent devaluation of the exchange rate would jeopardize not only the inflation objectives but also the stability of the gilt-edged market. For it would begin to discount some corrective action. The gilt market can therefore be expected to view any further falls in the trade-weighted rate with concern.

Three reasons then for the recent stability of the gilt-edged market to end: three essentially domestic reasons. No reference has been made to the deteriorating US picture. This is not to say that the impact this has on the domestic market is minimal, even though it may have been less than in the past.

Rather, it highlights the fact that when the domestic picture is also deteriorating our immunity to external "shocks" diminishes.

The author is a partner and chief economist of stockbrokers de Zoete and Bevan.

USM REVIEW

A bear market will test Plan Invest

Michael Clark

Not to be outdone by the FT Index, the Unlisted Securities Market index, as measured by Datastream, was again scaling new heights last week proving to the sceptics that the USM has more than fulfilled the task it was designed for.

Now, however, the market grows larger and the queue of new companies hoping to join shows few signs of trailing off. All of a sudden every businessman, and his dog, is aware of the opportunities available once a quote is secured. So the spread of companies now quoted on the USM has become wide and diverse. Interests range from extracting protein from waste products to high-stepping dance studios.

Last week one of the most bizarre offerings yet was placed in front of investors. Plan Invest Group claims to be one of Britain's largest independent unit trust portfolio advisers, handling funds of around £25m. The broker Robert Wigram is placing 878,000 shares, around 49 per cent of issued capital, with clients at 62½p a share. It capitalizes the entire group at a mere £1.375m, making it one of the smaller companies quoted on the USM.

Operating with a team of only 13, Plan Invest has few assets and relies heavily on the ability of its expert advisers. The group specializes in unit trusts but has no fund of its own and merely advises amateur and professional investors alike on where to invest their money - a service that every self-respecting firm of stockbrokers should have no difficulty in offering.

Both London and Tokyo are currently in the midst of a strong bull market, so the opportunity for lucrative investments remains high. The real test for Plan Invest will come during the next bear market, especially in the field of unit trusts where specialist situations are common.

Plan Invest has other strings to its bow, including a 49 per cent stake in HCP1, a company supplying financial planning services to professional investors. HCP1's largest shareholder is the Manchester stockbroking firm of Henry Cooke, Lumsden. It also provides a comprehensive service on personal money investments.

Part of the sale proceeds will be used to launch a new product in the unit trust field. Over the past five years pre-tax profits have grown from £37,000 to £155,000, but the

group has declined to make a forecast for the current year and merely states "the directors view prospects with confidence".

The thinness of the market should ensure the shares open at a premium in first-time dealings later today will close observers looking for around 90p, but the subsequent performance of the price may depend heavily on the fortunes of the market.

The merger of William Morris, an old-established firm specializing in metal sculptures, with Peterlee, the wallpaper specialists, may seem an odd marriage at first glance, but has more going for it than meets the eye.

William Morris has designed and sculptured many of London's most famous landmarks, including the figure of Justice on top of the Old Bailey, the

mermaid fountains in Trafalgar and the sculptures of one of London's Zoo's most famous inmates - Guy the gorilla.

However, the biggest side of the group's business is in wallpaper, which last year accounted for 70 per cent of sales. Peterlee now controls a large slice of the washable wallpaper market and hopes to use the proceeds from its flotation, amounting to £200,000, to expand still further.

At the Annual General Meeting of N.V. Gemeenschappelijk Bezaan Aandeel Philip Gosekampenfabrieken ("Philips N.V."), the ultimate holding company of Philips Finance public limited company ("the Company"), held on 28th April 1984 at Eindhoven, a resolution was passed approving a distribution to Ordinary Shareholders in Ordinary Shares, at the rate of one share of Rs. 10 per ten Ordinary Shares of Rs. 10 held, paid up by way of capitalisation of part of the amount standing to the credit of share premium account.

As a result, pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Deed constituting the 50 per cent Sterling/Guilder Convertible Guaranteed Loan Stock 1981/1982, the Conversion and cancellation notice for the Stock has been received with effect from and including 27th April, 1984 from Rs. 55 per share to Rs. 50 10 per share and the conversion rate has been adjusted accordingly. The new conversion rate is 8.655 Ordinary Shares (previously 7.859 Ordinary Shares) of Rs. 10 nominal of Philips N.V. for every £50 nominal of Stock. However, the procedure for conversion may, and under current circumstances will, involve a cash payment due to changes in the official rate of exchange between the pound sterling and the Netherlands guilder from the rate fixed under the terms of issue of the Stock. Full details of the procedure to be followed on conversion are set out in a letter sent to all Stockholders on 19th April, 1982, copies of which may be obtained from the Company's Registrars.

APPOINTMENTS

Director for Hill Samuel Shipping

Hill Samuel Shipping Holdings: Mr Michael Robinson will join the board on June 1 and will be responsible for marketing and services of Lambert Bros Shipping and Wallen & Co of Hongkong. He succeeds as marketing director of British Shipbuilders.

Windsor Securities (Holdings): Mr G. M. Fairweather has become a non-executive director.

East Midland Allied Press: From May 1, Mr Robin Miller becomes chief executive (printing and publishing).

John Lewis Partnership: Mr J. S. Sadler has been appointed deputy chairman in succession to Mr J. A. Powell who has resigned his directorship upon his retirement as the partnership's deputy chairman and general inspector finance director. Mr B. C. G. Hutchings, who succeeds Mr Powell as general inspector becomes a director.

John Maunders Construction: Mr John Fallows has been made chief executive of John Maunders Construction's new subsidiary, Haven Retirement Homes.

City Capital Markets Committee: Mr E. E. Ray, a partner in Spicer and Pegler, is to join the committee.

PHILIPS FINANCE public limited company

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF 50 PER CENT STERLING/GULDEN CONVERTIBLE GUARANTEED LOAN STOCK 1981/1982

ADJUSTMENT OF CONVERSION RATE

At the Annual General Meeting of N.V. Gemeenschappelijk Bezaan Aandeel Philip Gosekampenfabrieken ("Philips N.V."), the ultimate holding company of Philips Finance public limited company ("the Company"), held on 28th April 1984 at Eindhoven, a resolution was passed approving a distribution to Ordinary Shareholders in Ordinary Shares, at the rate of one share of Rs. 10 per ten Ordinary Shares of Rs. 10 held, paid up by way of capitalisation of part of the amount standing to the credit of share premium account.

William Morris is joining the USM via a reverse takeover of Ceylon and Indian Planters Holdings, which is currently quoted under Rule 163. The broker Le Mare, Martin is placing 5 million shares, 12 per cent of the equity, at 10p per share following the pattern now firmly established by Le Mare in all of its half dozen or so USM placings. At this level the group is valued at £4m.

Peterlee hopes it can harness the design expertise of William Morris, built up over the past

SWIRE PACIFIC LIMITED AND SWIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED

OF HONG KONG PROPOSALS FOR SWIRE PACIFIC LIMITED TO ACQUIRE THE MINORITY INTERESTS IN SWIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED

1. Swire Pacific Limited ("Swire Pacific") and Swire Properties Limited ("Swire Properties") announce that terms have been agreed by the Boards of the two companies on proposals whereby, subject, inter alia, to the approval of shareholders, Swire Properties would become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Swire Pacific.
2. Swire Pacific presently owns beneficially 443,697,822 ordinary shares of HK\$1 each in Swire Properties representing 72.495% of the issued share capital; other shareholders own 168,338,720 ordinary shares (the "Minority Shares") representing 27.505% of the issued share capital.
3. The proposals will be implemented by a Scheme of Arrangement under Section 166 of the Companies Ordinance whereby, in place of their existing holdings, the holders of the Minority Shares will be entitled to receive:

FOR EVERY 500 SHARES IN SWIRE PROPERTIES 130 NEW SWIRE PACIFIC 'A' SHARES PLUS HK\$1,610 IN CASH

and so on in proportion for greater or lesser holdings, but ignoring fractional entitlements to new Swire Pacific 'A' shares. At the closing prices on the Far East Exchange Limited on 27th April 1984 of HK\$18.40 per Swire Pacific 'A' share and HK\$6.60 per Swire Properties ordinary share, the proposals value each Swire Properties ordinary share at slightly over HK\$8.00, a premium of 21.3% above its closing price.

4. Shareholders in Swire Properties will be entitled to receive and retain the final dividend of HK\$0.32 per ordinary share in respect of the year ended 31st December 1983 which was announced on 16th March 1984 and is proposed to be paid on 18th May 1984. The new Swire Pacific 'A' shares will rank pari passu in all respects with the existing Swire Pacific 'A' shares except that they will not rank for the final dividend of HK\$0.73 per 'A' share in respect of the year ended 31st December 1983 which was announced on 26th March 1984 and is proposed to be paid on 8th June 1984.

5. The directors of Swire Properties have appointed Hambro Pacific Limited ("Hambros") as its financial advisers and with regard to the interests of the holders of the Minority Shares and the directors of Swire Pacific have appointed Wardley Limited ("Wardley") as its financial advisers. In the discussions on terms, those directors of Swire Properties who are also directors of Swire Pacific have not participated on behalf of Swire Properties. All the directors of Swire Properties and Hambros consider the proposals to be fair and reasonable and recommend them to the holders of the Minority Shares. All the directors of Swire Pacific and Wardley consider the proposals to be fair and reasonable and recommend them to the shareholders of Swire Pacific. All the directors of Swire Pacific and of Swire Properties will vote in favour of the proposals in respect of their own beneficial holdings of shares in Swire Properties and in Swire Pacific.
6. The directors of Swire Pacific do not intend to make any changes in the overall policy with regard to the Swire Pacific Group's property activities whereby Swire Properties will continue as the holding company for the Swire Pacific Group's property interests. The Board of Swire Pacific intends to continue the development of the business of Swire Properties so as to take advantage of property investment and development opportunities in Hong Kong and elsewhere and considers that their development and financing will be enhanced and facilitated if Swire Properties were to become wholly-owned by Swire Pacific, with consequential benefits to the Swire Pacific Group as a whole in the medium and long term. The terms and conditions of employment of the staff of the Swire Properties Group will not be adversely affected by the implementation of the proposals.

7. A Scheme document will be posted to shareholders of Swire Properties as soon as practicable; this document will contain details of the proposals, forecasts of the profits of Swire Properties and of Swire Pacific for the year ending 31st December 1984, valuations of the Swire

Properties Group's properties, and other important information which shareholders are advised to consider carefully; at the same time, a copy of the Scheme document, together with a separate explanatory circular, will be sent to the shareholders of Swire Pacific.

8. In the situation where Swire Pacific already owns 72.495% of Swire Properties the directors of both companies wished to ensure that the proposals would provide an equitable balance as between the interests of the shareholders of both companies. This is of particular importance because the holders of the Minority Shares in Swire Properties are being offered the opportunity to become shareholders in Swire Pacific and effectively to participate not only in the property activities of the Swire Pacific Group but also in all its other activities in the fields of aviation, shipping, trading and industry.
9. The terms of the proposals will not be revised and will be conditional upon:

- (1) Approval by the holders of the Minority Shares at a meeting of such shareholders to be convened at the direction of the Supreme Court.
- (2) The passing at an extraordinary general meeting of Swire Properties of the resolutions necessary to implement the proposals.
- (3) The passing at an extraordinary general meeting of Swire Pacific of the resolutions necessary to implement the proposals.

- (4) The sanction of the Supreme Court.
- If the Scheme of Arrangement becomes effective after approval by the requisite majorities, it will become binding on all the holders of the Minority Shares; if approval is not obtained, the proposals will lapse in their entirety.
10. The Hong Kong stock exchanges have been requested to grant a temporary suspension of trading in Swire Pacific 'A' and 'B' shares and in Swire Properties shares from the opening of business on Monday, 30th April 1984.

SWIRE PROPERTIES LIMITED

28th April 1984

SWIRE PACIFIC LIMITED

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin: Today. Dealings End, May 11. \$ Contango Day, May 14. Settlement Day, May 21.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

FT STOCK INDICES									
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES									81.98 (32.97)
FIXED INTEREST									88.24 (65.30)
INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY									90.08 (59.91)
GOLD MINES									884.4 (693.3)
ORDINARY DIVIDEND YIELD									4.28% (4.22%)
EARNINGS YIELD									9.78% (9.87%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)									12.34 (12.23)
ALL SHARE INDEX									11.76 (11.65)
DIVIDEND YIELD									

* estimated

FT - ACTUARIES INDICES									
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	531.09	(527.24)							
500 SHARE INDEX	582.01	(579.05)							
EARNINGS YIELD	9.54% (9.61)								
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.15% (4.17%)								
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.35 (12.35)								
ALL SHARE INDEX	534.83 (532.18)								
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.33% (4.35%)								
estimated									

* previous close

Stock outstanding

Price last Friday

Chg's on week

Int. yield

Gross Div. yield

on week

P/E

Stock

Capitalization

Company

Price last Friday

Chg's on week

Int. yield

Gross Div. yield

on week

P/E

Stock

Capitalization

Company

Price last Friday

Chg's on week

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Gross Div. yield

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Price last Friday

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THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 30 1984

SPORT 21

FOOTBALL: TWO SECOND DIVISION PROMOTION PLACES CLAIMED, BUT THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IS UNRESOLVED

Chelsea complete their irresistible rise to the highest class as crowd lowers itself

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Chelsea.....5

Leeds United.....0

Chelsea showed their two faces in the sunshine of Saturday afternoon. One, to be seen on the pitch, is youthful and attractive. The other, to be seen off it, is old and ugly. The first division will be a richer place for their players and the poorer for some of their followers.

Leeds United, faced a blue tidal wave that swept across the length and breadth of Stamford Bridge, were overwhelmed. Within an hour Thomas had claimed the opening goal. Dixon another three. Bumstead had hit the same post twice and Spackman had miscued from a yard. Chelsea's irresistible ride towards promotion was complete.

Their attack will cut through more than a few tighter rearguards next season. In Nevin they have a small Scottish winger of utmost trickery. His dribble to set up the second goal, full of breaks and acceleration, was the highlight of the day. In Thomas they have a rejuvenated Welshman of ceaseless activity.

Speedie is aptly named and Dixon, his taller and less mobile partner, illustrated three different scoring qualities - heading power, delicacy with the right foot and accuracy with the left - to take his personal total to 32.

When Canoville came on to add the fifth with a powerful individual run, their collective total became 85, the highest of the League.

Coventry slide down a familiar slope

By David Powell

The names may have changed but the script is much the same for Coventry City. Their 8-2 defeat at Southampton on Saturday has pushed them further towards the almost impossible feat of a slide more slippery than the one last season which nearly landed them in the second division.

Then, taking only nine points from their last 17 games, Coventry fell from fifth to nineteenth place under the control of Dave Sexton. A year later they have a new team, except for Jacobs and Hendrie, and

Rostrom out

Wif Rostrom, the Watford captain, will miss the FA Cup final next month after failing to do his side's 2-1 win at Luton. On Saturday, Rostrom's diagnosis - he clashed with Luton's Paul Elliott, who was also dismissed - earned an automatic two-match suspension, starting in two weeks time.

a new manager, Bobby Gould, but the club is back on familiar ice.

Once more they have achieved only nine points from 17 games and they can better get their skates on if they are to save themselves from spinning over the edge. Wallace and Moran scored three apiece.

The most surprising result, Newcastle United's 1-0 defeat at Cambridge United, who had gone a League record 31 games without a win, went unpublish by Manchester City, who lost to a goal by Watson at Derby County.

Newcastle one more win to be sure and next Saturday's match at home to Derby could be crucial in resolving the division's last two issues. The final relegation place is surely reserved for either Derby, Palace or Oldham Athletic.

Coverey's goal difference is markedly worse than those of the two clubs immediately beneath them, Birmingham City and Ipswich Town, and with Liverpool in wait to avenge their 4-0 defeat at Highfield Road, Coventry's main hope may be for Southampton to do unto others as they have done unto them. With a place in next season's UEFA Cup, the perfect incentive, Southampton will be spreading themselves among the promotion candidates during the last two

Howe signs two year contract

Arsenal confirmed the appointment of Dan Howe as their manager within minutes of Saturday's first division victory over Leicester. The club's chairman, Peter Hill-Wood, said it as "a unanimous decision" of the board.

He, who has been in charge as caretaker manager since Terry Neill departed in December, will be given a two-year contract. "But I would like to think he will be here for 12, 15 or as many years as he wants," Mr Hill-Wood said. In the period under Howe, Arsenal have taken 38 points from 22 league games and climbed from thirteenth in the table to sixth.

First division

Second division

Third division

Fourth division

Scottish premier division

Scottish first division

Scottish second division

YACHTING

FOOTBALL: TWO SECOND DIVISION PROMOTION PLACES CLAIMED, BUT THE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IS UNRESOLVED



A hat-trick from Chelsea's Kerry Dixon (top right), a vain appeal to rioting supporters from Ken Bates (above)

before battle ceased. One policeman struck in the throat by a brick, fell unconscious and had to be revived by the kiss of life. Another, holding a bloody bandage to his face, was carried away on a stretcher. Pugnantly, the last person to leave the pitch departed supine in the back of an ambulance.

Although Ken Bates, Chelsea's chairman, described his club's supporters as "just excited and boisterous" clubs would be advised to follow his proposal and invest in cameras aimed at the crowd to catch misbehaving supporters on film.

A season's coverage would cost some £25,000, a small price to pay for safety. Otherwise there must be genuine fears that next season's first division London derbies, in particular, will be similarly scarred. Nor should the defences of Arsenal, Queen's Park Rangers, Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United feel complacent about the prospect of meeting Chelsea.

CHELSEA: E Niedzwiedz, C Lee, J Jones, C Patas, J McLaughlin, J Bunniss (sub P Canoville), P Nevin, N Spackman, K Dixon, S Speedie, M Haines, A Watson, N Aspin, M Dickenson, T Wright, S Sellers (sub G McCusker), A Ritchie, P Lorimer, M Gavin. Referee: G Napthine (Loughborough).

• Forty-one supporters have been charged following the trouble and will appear at Horsferry Magistrates' Court next month on charges of threatening behaviour, wilful destruction, criminal damage and being drunk and disorderly, a Yard spokesman said yesterday.

When their patience was broken by the action of one particularly senseless Leeds idiot, who felt prompted to thrust a wooden plank repeatedly into the electronic scoreboard, sparks flew. Truncheons, riot shields and a dozen mounted policemen were used

Harder they fall in a hard game

By Clive White

Sunderland.....2

Birmingham City.....1

Those who like their football beautiful, would have found this match repugnant; two players sent off, five bookings, including that of the Birmingham City physiotherapist, and all three goals the result of penalties. As one humourist bluntly put it, this match had everything - except football.

However, if any of the 13,000 at Roker Park on Saturday clapped their eyes to it, in all probability of the next thundering tackle, Morbid fascination was of, and beyond, the dire consequences facing the losers. Ron Saunders, the Birmingham manager, who likes to hear his football as well as watch it, took some fine, opportunist play early on, and two goals from the penalty spot, the second rather fortuitous in its making and taking. The amusingly perverse Saunders thought that James's fall after what appeared to be only obstruction by Wright was so disgracefully acted that it deserved a booking for malignant conduct.

But there were many more genuine cases of that. In the fifth minute, Mr Scott, the referee, booked Hindmarch and when the Sunderland players protested about an earlier piece of villainy by

• Naturally, he was not too happy about the bookings his side incurred

Lucky few see Stansted upset all the odds

By Paul Newman

Stamford.....2

Stanstead.....3

The 1984 FA Vase final will go down in the record books as the worst supported in the competition's history. The 8,125 people at Wembley on Saturday will remember it, as an enthralling match which preserved the Vase's tradition of friendly rivalry, good football and unexpected results.

The poor attendance - the previous lowest was 9,500, for the final in 1975 - was perhaps not surprising. Stamford, of the United Counties League, are from Lincolnshire, hardly an area of high population, and Stansted, of the Essex Senior League, are one of the smaller clubs to reach a Vase final, until recently their home county rarely exceeding 1000.

After 64 minutes to make the score 2-2, Stansted rarely looked likely to draw level. Robson, the 39-year-old veteran of more than 400 League appearances for Peterborough United, directed Stamford's midfield well, but not even his skills were enough against a team who proved worthy Vase winners.

STAMFORD: L Pascoe, M Johnson, S Johnson, D Johnson, D Williams, J Hilton, R Simpson, S Cooper, J Readings, G Callahan, R Allen, T Gillard. Referee: T Burns (Newbury).

Stansted won by playing thoroughly skilful, intelligent football,

which brought them up to 66 for the season. He refused to accept that the "qualities" he admired go hand in hand with reputation. There was a conspiracy, he thought, against Birmingham.

The game deserved praise, at least for the breakneck speed it was played at in the abnormal warmth of the day. It had its moments of skill, too, though they had to be wrung out of it. Leighton James showed us that his legs and nerve are still standing up to it with some

fire, opportunist play early on, and two goals from the penalty spot, the second rather fortuitous in its making and taking. The amusingly perverse Saunders thought that James's fall after what appeared to be only obstruction by Wright was so disgracefully acted that it deserved a booking for malignant conduct.

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Aberdeen aim to conclude formalities

Ipswich need have no fears about Manchester visit

By Vince Wright

Liverpool.....2

IPSWICH.....2

Ipswich have the will as well as the skill to stay in the first division. At Anfield on Saturday Bobby Ferguson's youngsters deserved their draw with the European Cup qualifiers in a stirring struggle in the spring sun. Of the clubs involved by relegation, which probably have the most testing end to the season, but giving as good as they got against Liverpool, a visit to Old Trafford next Monday should hold no fears.

Liverpool were not too disappointed at the outcome, for although they enjoyed the company of points they are still favourites to win the League title for the third successive year. However, there is no cause for complacency as three of Liverpool's four remaining fixtures are against teams who, like Ipswich, are battling to avoid relegation.

Considering that they were weakened by injuries, Ipswich were still able to take the points to Liverpool and all the more laudable. No one played better or tried harder than Eric Gates, Ipswich's acting captain, who is revelling in taking on more responsibility since the departure of Ipswich's other big-name players, Mariner and Wark. Operating as a central attacker, Gates scored twice and gave Liverpool's defence, Lawrence and Haskett in particular, a thoroughly uncomfortable time.

Sunderland had gone close with a

diving header before Ipswich went ahead in the nineteenth minute. Lawrence was unable to clear for obstruction, and when Brennan tapped the free kick sideways Gates fired crisply home. Liverpool's equalizer on the half-hour was probably the first thing that they had done right. Neal's centre was only half-clipped and his full-blooded strike, Kennedy, Liverpool's outstanding player, stepped up to bullet the ball past Cooper from 25 yards.

There followed a purple patch by Liverpool which led to Rush equaling Roger Hunt's club record of 42 goals in a season. This extraordinary forward provided the finishing touch at the far post after Ward had foisted his former colleagues by dummying Lee's cross.

Powers, accurate shooting had been a feature of the afternoon's play and the Ipswich equalizer by Gates after 57 minutes was another reminder of it. Sunderland and D'Averay cleverly created the chance and Gates' instant volley was always cutting down from Grobbelaar.

Liverpool made their familiar late surge but Ipswich, inspired by Omond's resolve, defending pluckily resisted. If Ipswich are unlucky enough to go down, the first division will be poorer for it.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G Robson, J Neal, A Keown, L Lawton, S Nicoll, P Whelan, A Hansen, K Dalglish, S Lee, I Rush, J Park, C Johnston, P Cooper, F Valente, S. J. McCall, J Zenderen, R Osman, I Cranmer, T. P. Flannery, N. Bremner, M. D'Averay, A Sunderland, E. Gaze. Referee: T Mills (Barnsley).

West Ham stand fast shoulder to shoulder

By Simon Barnes

Manchester United.....0

West Ham United.....0

Like two well-built chaps at the door of their club, Liverpool and Manchester United keep saying to each other: "After you, old boy." "No, no, after you." The run-in to the championship has seen both clubs determined, rejecting the invitation to take a quick lead, and both lost on the same day, then they both drew. Then they both won. Now they have both drawn again. And the gap remains a mere two points.

I have no idea how United failed to score on Saturday. Perhaps they are just not good enough. They might even have lost. West Ham played with a thrilling one-nine-one formation, players shoulder to shoulder in the goalmouth, but Corlett, mostly a lone forward, nudged a chance in the second minute, and a couple of other opportunities to stretch the match did not work out.

Harford was then booked for persistent second degree fouling after only 18 minutes, and later he was joined by the book by James, for dissent, and Graham. Doing the physiotherapy, for treating the outlandishly prostrate Gayle with permission.

After James's two penalties

Birmingham were given a lifeline by one from Wright, and the departure of Hindmarch for a second bookable offence. But they were too excited to realise their good form and within four minutes Harford, after a naughty tackle, was walking even before the referee opened his book.

SUNDERLAND: C Turner, B Vernon, J Jones, P Don Hause, J Hart, W R Wright, S Roberts, H Gals, Kuri, M Harford, R Rogers, M Rees. Referee: D Scott (Bury).

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MOTOR RACING

Alboreto beyond challenge as Ferrari find right formula

From John Blunsden, Zolder

Ferrari are back on the Grand Prix-winning trail. After two disappointments in Brazil and South Africa, everything went right for the Italian team at Zolder yesterday when Michele Alboreto, starting from pole position, led all 70 laps of the Belgian Grand Prix to win by a margin of 42.4 seconds over the Renault of Derek Warwick. Third place went to René Arnoux in the second Ferrari, after Keke Rosberg's Williams-Honda ran out of fuel on the last lap, but Rosberg reclaimed fourth place because the remainder of the field had been lapped.

Intensive work on the suspension of their cars before the race, and the growing competitiveness of the latest Goodyear radial tyres, have also improved the fuel consumption of their turbo-charged engine, previously a limitation on their performance.

Only Warwick was able to mount anything approaching a challenge on Alboreto, but when the circuit became very slippery through a combination of oil spill and dirt off of the racing line, he decided to drive a conservative race to make sure of his second place. This has given him second place in the championship table behind Alain Prost, whose McLaren retired early after an electrical fault caused a minor fire. With Lauda also dropping out with engine trouble, it was a thin day for the McLaren team, who had dominated the first two races.

Warwick drove a characteristic race, battling away after his engine almost died on the start line and his car was overwhelmed by most of the

until being overtaken by the more powerful jaguar.

Another XJS, driven by Tom Walkinshaw and Hans Heyer, led in the early stages but was hampered by a couple of broken wheels and eventually finished ninth. This pairing nevertheless maintained their championship lead after a late, dramatic stop by Alain Prost, Jean-Pierre Jarier and Alain Ferté.

The unscrupulous pit stop on lap 22 of the 160-lap race over 500 kilometres dropped the two British drivers to 12th place, but they clawed their way back to contention and eventually won by almost half a minute from the BMW 635 CSI of James Weaver and Vince Woodward.

Weaver, in fact, proved to be the star of the race, driving a mammoth 102 lap opening stint, broken only by a stop for new tyres – and for a bucket of cold water to be thrown over him – and leading handsomely

TENNIS

McEnroe honours an off-court duty

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Dallas

John McEnroe cannot reasonably be regarded as an exemplary champion. His court conduct leaves him some way short of that status. But this unpredictable, sometimes stormy, man is punctilious in honouring off-court duties to which he has committed himself. On the eve of the World Championship Tennis final, Jimmy Connors went to his hotel room to give him a dinner dance in aid of charity. But McEnroe turned up – and made a gracious, polished and witty speech that hit all the appropriate targets.

In the absence of Ivan Lendl, Mats Wilander and Yannick Noah, there was never much doubt that McEnroe and Connors would contest the \$107,000 first prize here. Their challengers were not quite in the same class. In the semi-finals, Connors beat Jimmy Arias 6-7, 6-6, 6-2 in two hours and 28 minutes and McEnroe beat Kevin Curren 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 in two hours and 12 minutes. Connors and McEnroe have not met since those opponents and there was no prospect that they would do so this time.

Connors played remarkably well. So did McEnroe, who was far more adept than Curren at profiting from his opponent's second service. Curren, mind you, was not at his liveliest. He had come back from two sets down to win both his previous matches and he was on court with McEnroe little more than 14 hours after spending three hours and 16 minutes in the company of John Kriek.

McEnroe's tennis brain was so finely tuned that his anticipation and reaction so fast that the ball seemed to hover in his path as if awaiting his pleasure. His serving was irresistibly good, his touch delicately deft. There was seldom a glimmer of a chance that Curren would break service and thus get into the match.

Tactical winner

Austen Brice displayed excellent awareness in his heat. Danny Sapsford 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the British 16 and under hardcourt championships, sponsored by Prudential, at Edgbaston Archery Club, yesterday (Wednesday).

The girls' title was taken by Anne Simpkin, who hit some of her best shots off the most difficult of balls against the tenacious Clare Wood of Sussex. On her sixth match point Miss Simpkin won 3-6, 6-1, 7-5.

HOCKEY

Midlands keep winning habit

Midlands won the junior divisional tournament for the third year in succession and for the fifth time in 10 years when they defeated East 4-2 in the final at Sunderland yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes). East had beaten them 4-1 in the group match.

On a splendid artificial surface, Midlands took an early lead through Welch. Donnelly equalised for East a minute before half-time. Between the ninth and twelfth minutes of the second half Midlands scored three goals, two by Head and one by Welch. Marsh reduced the lead from a short corner ten minutes later.

East had a harder time in the semi-finals. Having squandered a 2-0 lead they drew 2-2 with West, eventually winning 9-6 on penalty strokes.

RESULTS: Group A: East 4, Midlands 1; Combined Services 0, Midlands 2; East 6, Midlands 2; Midlands 2, West 2; West 1, South 1; North 3, West 1; West 2, East 2. West (2) won on penalty strokes; Midlands 2, North 1; Failes, Midlands 4. East 2, Midlands 2; West 1, North 1; West 2, South 1; Combined Services 1.

WEST BERLIN: Men's India 2, Netherlands 1; Women's India 2, Netherlands 2; West Germany 2, West Germany 3; British 1, United States 2, West Germany 2; Australia 4, West Germany 3; France 2, West Germany 1; Belgium 1, West Germany 2; Wales 1, England 1; Scotland 1, Netherlands 2; West Germany 2; Belgium 1; Netherlands 2; West Germany 1; United States 1.

WEST GERMANY: Men's India 2, Netherlands 1; Women's India 2, Netherlands 2; West Germany 2, West Germany 3; British 1, United States 2, West Germany 2; Australia 4, West Germany 3; France 2, West Germany 1; Belgium 1, West Germany 2; Wales 1, England 1; Scotland 1, Netherlands 2; West Germany 2; Belgium 1; Netherlands 2; West Germany 1; United States 1.

SCOTLAND: Saturday, Women's United States 2, West Germany 0; Netherlands 5, Great Britain 1. Girls under 18: Netherlands 6, Wales 1. A Division: United States 2, West Germany 1; Scotland 1, Netherlands 2; West Germany 0; Belgium 2, Netherlands 1; England 1; Yugoslavia 1; West Germany 1. Sunday: United States 3, Great Britain 1, Netherlands 3, United States 2, West Germany 2; Scotland 2, West Germany 1; France 1, West Germany 1; Belgium 1, West Germany 1; Netherlands 2, West Germany 1; United States 1.

NETHERLANDS: Saturday, Women's United States 2, West Germany 0; Netherlands 5, Great Britain 1. Girls under 18: Netherlands 6, Wales 1. A Division: United States 2, West Germany 1; Scotland 1, Netherlands 2; West Germany 0; Belgium 2, Netherlands 1; England 1; Yugoslavia 1; West Germany 1. Sunday: United States 3, Great Britain 1, Netherlands 3, United States 2, West Germany 2; Scotland 2, West Germany 1; France 1, West Germany 1; Belgium 1, West Germany 1; Netherlands 2, West Germany 1; United States 1.

FRANCE: Saturday, Women's United States 2, West Germany 0; Netherlands 5, Great Britain 1. Girls under 18: Netherlands 6, Wales 1. A Division: United States 2, West Germany 1; Scotland 1, Netherlands 2; West Germany 0; Belgium 2, Netherlands 1; England 1; Yugoslavia 1; West Germany 1. Sunday: United States 3, Great Britain 1, Netherlands 3, United States 2, West Germany 2; Scotland 2, West Germany 1; France 1, West Germany 1; Belgium 1, West Germany 1; Netherlands 2, West Germany 1; United States 1.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHS
ARTHUR - On April 27th, 1984, in London, Mrs. G. A. and Mr. J. C. (John Peter) Arthur, and their son, a daughter, Lucy, and Michael, for Christopher, 2000 Grey's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.
ANNOUNCEMENT can be received by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to: 2000 Grey's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, or: Interdenominational Register, 160, 01-837 3311, 01-734 2278, 01-737 1167, 01-736 01-278 1167.

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, an additional charge of £1.00 per word, 12.00pm, 0327 3335 only, for publication the following day.

FORTECOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, ETC., etc. - Cost £2.00 per couple, plus 10% extra for each extra word, £1.00 per letter.

Court and Social News, cannot be accepted by telephone.

Most other announcements can be accepted by telephone. The deadline is 8.00pm on Tuesday, 10 days before the wedding Monday for Wednesday.

Should you wish to send an announcement, please include your daytime phone number.

I WILL BLESS THE LORD at all three; my grace shall continually be in my mouth, Psalm 34: 1.

BIRTHS

ARTHUR - On Friday, April 27th, 1984, in London, Mr. and Mrs. John (John Peter) Arthur, and their son, a daughter, Lucy, and Michael, for Christopher, 2000 Grey's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

BROOKE - On April 27th to Catherine (née Bryant) and Ross, son of James and Anthony.

BURGESS - On April 27th, 1984, in London, Mrs. Eileen (née Burgess), sister of Juliette, sister for Suzanne and Lorraine.

EVANS - On April 18th, 1984, in Elizabeth (née Clark) and Richard, 2000 Grey's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

FRASER - On April 20th, to Mary (née Clark) and Roy, a son, Christopher, 2000 Grey's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

GARRETT - In memory of a baby daughter, born 1973.

HARTLEY-VERNON - On April 19th, 1984, in memory of her 90th birthday with so much love, Jo.

MURKIE - In memory of W. L. (Leslie) Carton, April 30, 1975.

MYERS - On April 27th, 1984, in London, Mrs. Eileen (née Myers), sister of Juliette, sister for Suzanne and Lorraine.

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Once-a-year-day for fritillaria meleagris



Nature lovers from parts of Britain descended on a Suffolk meadow yesterday to photograph the snake's head fritillary - a variety of wild lily. Fox Fritillary Meadow at Boundary Farm, Framsden (above), is the biggest site in Britain for the plant, *fritillaria meleagris*, which is largely confined to four areas in the county. The meadow is thrown open to the public on one day a year. The purple and rarer white blooms last up to two weeks - if they are not eaten by pheasants.



Gaddafi greets Libyans with attack on Britain

Colonel Gaddafi also night appeared to threaten terrorist reprisals against Britain in the wake of the embassy siege in London.

"Now the time has come to treat Britain in a reciprocal manner after it has been confirmed that Britain protects terrorism and the enemies of the Libyan Arab people," official Jana news agency quoted the Libyan leader. He was speaking in Tripoli to the group of Libyans expelled from Britain on Friday from the killing of a London policewoman on April 17.

Colonel Gaddafi said the Libyans in the mission had been "victims of an air and ground armed attack". Libyan officials had previously referred to a British police helicopter which they said had overtaken the embassy the day WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead.

"We are sorry that Britain

disregards international norms and laws as the Libyan Arab People's Bureau (the Embassy) members who are under the protection of this state (Britain) were victims of an air and ground armed attack," the Libyan leader was quoted as saying.

"I was sorry that relations between the Libyan Arab and British peoples were severed and I know that it is not the wish of the British people but that of the authorities which do not represent the people because authority is in the hands of a small group, not in the hands of the people."

"In the past, we established our relations with the Government and not the people and I know that people do not hate each other. Because people have not been able yet to establish the Jamahiriya (masses) society, such mistakes could be repeated."

Police are investigating possible connexions between those incidents and Friday's attempt

Israelis swoop on anti-Arab activists

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standing trial after members of three groups were charged in the past two months with attacking Arabs.

Police fear that those detained over the weekend may represent a more professional and well organized - and hence more dangerous - trend in vigilantism.

Some left-wing politicians have warned of the existence of an armed Jewish underground since 1980, when car bombs crippled Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, two leading Arab figures on the Temple Mount.

Because of the new blackout, no authoritative report on the weekend developments has been made public.

Mr Mati Atzmon, an Israeli attorney representing the Arab Jerusalem-Kalandia bus company, whose vehicles were booby-trapped, told *The Times* that a man who planted the bombs was arrested in the small hours of Friday morning and led investigators to four booby-trapped buses.

Officials are hinting privately that the plot was discovered because secret agents infiltrated the group.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, also backed an inquiry. He wanted to know what was meant by Mr Brittan's statement that no information that would have led the Government to believe that such an incident would occur "was in our hands" before the event.

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